



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
NINTH PARLIAMENT
FIFTH SESSION

Parliamentary Series 95

**Third Report of the
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

(Investigations Conducted from 23.03.2023 to 07.07.2023)

Presented to Parliament by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, M.P.,
Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts

on 23rd July, 2024

Ordered to be printed by Parliament of Sri Lanka on the 23rd day of July 2024.

In submission of the observations made and the steps taken regarding the Reports tabled in Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts

Standing Order 119 (4) of Parliament states as follows.

“A report of the Committee on Public Accounts, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and the Ministers in charge of the institutions and the respective Minister shall submit the observations and actions taken in that regard to Parliament within eight weeks, and also submit a statement of actions proposed to be taken with regard to the observations or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendations may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons in writing and indicate alternative actions which the Minister proposes to take to ensure the proper usage of public finance; and if the Committee requires, the committee may invite the relevant Minister to explain the position in person and to answer the questions that arise as to such matters within eight weeks. When Parliament so decides, the report concerned may be referred to the Attorney- General for his observations and necessary action.”

The Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament
Composition of the Committee on Public Accounts

(During the period of the investigations)

1. Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna (Chair)
2. Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law
3. Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
4. Hon. K. Kader Masthan
5. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
6. Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
7. Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
8. Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
9. Hon. Tissa Attanayake
10. Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
11. Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
12. Hon. Kabir Hashim
13. Hon. Mano Ganesan
14. Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
15. Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
16. Hon. Niroshan Perera
17. Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
18. Hon. Vadivel Suresh
19. Hon. Ashok Abeyasinghe
20. Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
21. Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
22. Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan (Since 25.04.2023)
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam (up to
24.04.2023)
23. Hon. Hector Appuhamy
24. Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
25. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
26. Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi (Since 07.03.2023)
27. Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
28. Hon. D. Weerasingha
29. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe (Since 25.04.2023)
Hon. Heshu Withanage (up to 24.04.2023)
30. Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake (Since 07.03.2023)
31. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

The Composition of the Committee on Public Accounts
of the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament

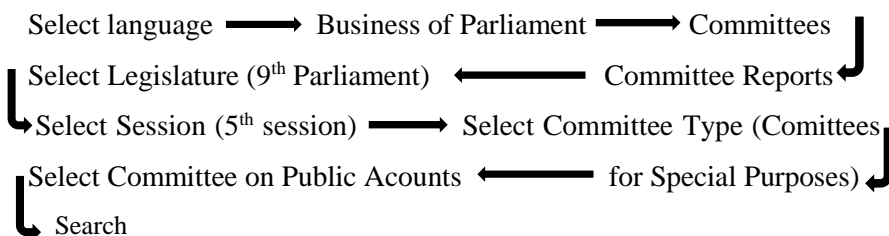
1. Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, M.P. (Chair)
2. Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, M.P.
3. Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, M.P.
4. Hon. K. Kader Masthan, M.P.
5. Hon. (Mrs) Diana Gamage, M.P. (*upto 08.05.2024*)
6. Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, M.P.
7. Hon. Tissa Attanayake, M.P.
8. Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, M.P.
9. Hon. A.L.M. Athaullah, M.P.
10. Hon. Jayarathna Herath, M.P. (*since 20.03.2024*)
11. Hon. Kabir Hashim, M.P.
12. Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake, M.P.
13. Hon. Niroshan Perera, M.P.
14. Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala, M.P.
15. Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, M.P.
16. Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda, M.P.
17. Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan, M.P.
18. Hon. Hector Appuhamy, M.P.
19. Hon. M. Udayakumar, M.P.
20. Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, M.P.
21. Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku, M.P.
22. Hon. Upul Galappaththi, M.P. (*since 20.03.2024*)
23. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda, M.P.
24. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney-at-Law, M.P.
25. Hon.(Mrs.)Muditha Prishanthi, M.P.
26. Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana, M.P.
27. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney-at-Law, M.P.
28. Hon. D. Weerasingha, M.P.
29. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe, M.P.
30. Hon.(Mrs.)Manjula Dissanayake, M.P.
31. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya, M.P.

The Present Staff of the Committee on Public Accounts:

- Mrs. Kanthi Peiris - Secretary to the Committee/
Assistant Director (Administration)
- Mr. Kalansuriya Priyantha Chandana- Principal Officer
- Mrs. R.A.D.N. Geyowanee - Assistant Principal Officer
- Mr. K M G K Jayawardane - Assistant Principal Officer
- Mr. J T L P Sameera - Assistant Principal Officer
- Mrs. H.N. Fernandopulle - Assistant Principal Officer
- Miss. G D J H Ayeshmanthi - Parliamentary Officer

Committee Reports

The Reports of the Committee on Public Accounts can be downloaded through the website of www.parliament.lk under the following path.



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Chairman's Note

It gives me great pleasure to present the Third Report of the Committee on Public Accounts, which contains the findings of the examinations conducted by the Committee from 23.03.2023 to 07.07.2023 during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament. I would like to point out that while providing remedies for the weaknesses identified during the follow up process termed 'auditing', the Committee on Public Accounts places more emphasis on guiding institutions to avert the mistakes of the past in the future as it more productive to effectively prevent inefficiencies.

As such, I wish to mention that in addition to summoning and examining government institutions to Parliament, the Committee on Public Accounts successfully carries out the annual evaluation process over the government institutions through the on line information management system. It is my candid opinion that it enables the up-to-date monitoring of institutions by the Committee and provides space to identify the weaknesses and shortcomings so that they can be rectified through guidance and policy decisions.

My long experience in functioning at committees has convinced me that while it is necessary to rectify the shortcomings and mistakes identified in examining institutions and to improve the positive aspects and trends that exist, it is equally important to safeguard the dignity of government officials in conducting the meetings of committees.

Success of the Committee on Public Accounts means the positive outcome of the cooperation of all of its stakeholders. Therefore, I gratefully appreciate the assistance given to me by all Members of this Committee irrespective of their party affiliations in handling properly the follow up process in respect of the public finance mechanism.

Further, I wish to place on record that the Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to the Auditor General and his staff, officials of the Treasury, and the Secretary General of Parliament and her staff at the office of the Committee on Public Accounts for their unstinted cooperation in performing the functions of the Committee on Public Accounts in an efficient manner, be it amidst numerous challenges.

Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Chair
Committee on Public Accounts

Summary Report

This Report contains the matters discussed pertaining to the institutions examined by the Committee on Public Accounts during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament, explanations give by the Chief Accounting Officers and the directives and recommendations given by the Committee.

Period of the Reports of the Auditor General Pertaining to the Institutions Exmined from 23.03.2023 to 07.07.2023 by the Committee on Public Accounts.

| | Institution | Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress | Date of Examination |
|----|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 01 | Southern Provincial Council | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 24 March 2023 |
| 02 | Department of Samurdhi Development | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 25 April 2023 |
| 03 | Department of Police | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 26 April 2023 |
| 04 | Uva Provincial Council | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 09 May 2023 |
| 05 | Department of Inland Revenue | To examine the current performance and the progress of implementation | 12 May 2023 |

| Institution | Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress | Date of Examination |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | of the directives given in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 28.11.2022 | |
| 06 | Department of Government Information Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 25 May 2023 |
| 07 | Department of Samurdhi Development Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020, 2021, Current Performance and Progress of the recommendations and directives given in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 25.04.2023 | 26 May 2023 Resummoning |
| 08 | Colombo Municipal Council Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 06 June 2023 |
| 09 | Department of Prisons Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 09 June 2023 |
| 10 | Debt Conciliation Board Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 09 June 2023 |
| 11 | Department of Community Based Corrections Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 09 June 2023 |

| | Institution | Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress | Date of Examination |
|----|---|--|----------------------------|
| 12 | Ministry of Education | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 20 June 2023 |
| 13 | Ministry of Health | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 of the Ministry of Health and the Special Audit Report on the Management of Vehicles of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine and the Current Performance | 23 June 2023 |
| 14 | Department of Probation & Child Care Services | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 04 July 2023 |
| 15 | Department of National Zoological Gardens | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 05 July 2023 |
| 16 | Department of Animal production & Health | Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance | 06 July 2023 |

The Special Investigations Conducted by the Committee on Public Accounts

| | Special Investigation | Date Examined |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 01 | Meeting to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations in the interim report tabled in Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the Committee on Public Accounts to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve the collection and improvement of government revenue by utilizing effective information technology systems (Parliamentary Publication Series No. 118) | 23 March 2023 |
| 02 | Meeting to review the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information technology systems | 23 May 2023 |
| 03 | Performance Evaluation on Management of Archaeological Heritage in Sri Lanka | 24 May 2023 |
| 04 | Colombo Municipal Council - “Inspection of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project” | 21 June 2023 |
| 05 | Examination of the current performance, problems and improvements of the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) | 07 July 2023 |

Specific Observations

During the period under review, the Committee on Public Accounts observed the following general issues relating to the institutions.

1 Absence of audit units and not conducting meetings of the Audit and Management Committee.

1.1 Streamlining internal audits of local authorities

At the Committee on Public Accounts meeting on the Southern Provincial Council, the Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O) of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government stated that the proposal to establish a Provincial Internal Audit Unit in order to streamline the internal audit of local government agencies which is to be proposed to the Commissioner of Local Government has been forwarded to the Department of Management Services for final approval with the agreement of the Provincial Chief Secretaries.

1.2 Department of Government Information

As the absence of an internal audit unit in the Government Information Department was revealed at the Committee, the Committee directed the C.A.O./ Accounts Officer (A.O) to rectify that situation immediately. The committee also emphasized that the Ministry of Finance should provide the institutions that do not have internal audit units with proper guidance on conducting internal audits.

1.3 Department of Probation and Child Care Services

Since it was revealed that the Department of Probation and Child Care Services also does not have an internal audit unit and no audit and management committee meetings are being held, the Committee

emphasized the importance of having an internal audit unit and holding audit and management committee meetings, and directed the C.A.O./ A.O to establish an internal audit unit in the department and report to the Committee.

1.4 Uva Provincial Council

The Committee emphasized the importance of holding audit and management committee meetings for the Uva Provincial Council.

1.5 Colombo Municipal Council

The Committee emphasized at the Committee meeting on the Colombo Municipal Council that the audit and management committee meetings for the relevant year must be convened and that the Western Provincial Ministry of Local Government should supervise those meetings.

1.6 Ministry of Health

The Committee directed the C.A.O./ A.O. of the Ministry of Health to prepare agendas and minutes for Audit and Management Committees and take necessary actions to hold audit and management committees in an orderly manner and to report to the Committee.

2 Vacancies in Cadre

2.1 Department of Prisons

Approved cadre of the Department of Prisons as at 15th May 2023 was 7872 and the actual number of staff was 6225. There were 16 surplus officers for 4 posts and 1663 vacancies exist for 69 posts.

A number of administrative issues have arisen because actions had not been taken to fill the 02 vacant posts of Commissioner of Prison

(Sri Lanka Administrative Service I) and Assistant Commissioner of Prison (Sri Lanka Administrative Service II, III).

The C.A.O. was instructed to fill the vacancies in the approved cadre of the Department and to take actions to increase the cadre for the essential posts if the currently approved cadre is insufficient.

2.2 Department of Community Based Corrections

It was revealed before the Committee that there were a total of 43 vacancies in the Department of Community Based Corrections by the end of the year 2022. The Committee observed that 10 Senior Community Corrections Officer posts and 01 Administrative Officer post have been vacant since the years 2015 and 2010 respectively.

3 Not responding to previous directives by the Committee on Public Accounts during the timeframe specified

3.1 Department of Inland Revenue

Although a directive was given at the previous Committee on Public Accounts to use bank drafts as an alternative for tax payments since cheques tend to be returned when making tax payments through them, it is not being implemented properly. It was further revealed at the Committee on the Department of Inland Revenue that the value of returned cheques that should have been charged to the Department of Inland Revenue as at 30th June 2022 is Rs. 2.4 billion.

3.2 Department of Prisons

Since the Act to establish the Department of Prisons (Prisons Ordinance No. 16 of 1877) is around 140 years old, the previous Committee on Public Accounts meeting held on 29th March 2019

had given recommendations regarding the preparation of a new Act conforming to international standard.

Accordingly, The Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to submit a report that includes the time frame for promptly preparing a new Act conforming to international standard and presenting it to the parliament.

4 Lack of coordination between institutions.

4.1 Revenue Administration Management Information System (RAMIS) of the Department of Inland Revenue

At the Meeting to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations in the interim report tabled in Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the Committee on Public Accounts to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve the collection and improvement of government revenue by utilizing effective information technology systems (Parliamentary Publication Series No. 118), the A.O. of the Department of Inland Revenue stated that the main problem in the integration of data systems is the lack of a unique digital identification number that connects the RAMIS of the Department of Inland Revenue with data systems of other institutes.

Main issues identified in each of the institutions investigated, observations and recommendations and Directives Given

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Meeting to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations in the interim report tabled in Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the Committee on Public Accounts to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve the collection and improvement of government revenue by utilizing effective information technology systems (Parliamentary Publication Series No. 118)</p> <p>Date of Examination – 23 March 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned –</p> <p>❖ Ministry of Technology, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy, Presidential Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Transport and Highways, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Inland Revenue, Excise Department, Department of Motor Traffic , Department of Registration of Persons, Department of Import and Export Control, Department of Immigration and Emigration, Registrar General's Department, Registrar of Companies Department, Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank, Colombo Municipal Council, Information and Communication Technology Agency, Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Lanka Pay Pvt. Ltd.</p> | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Preparation of a formal practical program to prevent possible corruption and irregularities in the public sector in the future and to prepare a program to increase government revenue by integrating</u></p> | <p>Accordingly, the Committee directed the CAO (Chief Accounting Officer) / AO (Accounting Officer) to appoint a basic technical committee chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister including an officer of the President's Office, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
|--|--|---|
| | <p><u>institutions through information technology.</u></p> <p>The committee also observed that every government institution has spent a lot of money to build information technology systems in their institutions.</p> | <p>National Policy, Secretary to the Ministry of Technology and the Chairman of the Information and Communication Agency to submit recommendation in order to increase the government revenue by integrating government institutions through information technology.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts stated that three technical sub-committees should be appointed as mentioned below, and directed the heads of institutions to appoint a relevant officer from each institution.</p> <p>Technical sub-committee 01- Appointment of a committee consisting of an officer/s from the IT sector of each institution.</p> <p>Technical sub-committee 02 - Legal Committee consisting of officers of the Legal section of each institution.</p> <p>Technical sub-committee 03 - Steering Committee – The committee consisting of officers involved in the administration of the institutions</p> <p>Furthermore, the basic technical committee was directed to formally coordinate and facilitate the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
|-----|--|--|
| | | <p>implementation of the technical sub-committees.</p> <p>The primary role assigned to the technical sub-committees is to identify the technical background and problems of existing data systems in their organizations, identify new technical requirements and enhancements to be added to those data systems to connect with other organizations and to find out the measures to be taken to prepare a common data system connecting all the institutions.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Submission of the report, containing the recommendations of the basic technical committee headed by the Prime Minister's Secretary, to the Committee.</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed the basic technical committee, chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister, to conduct a preliminary discussion within a week once all the institutions are integrated and to present a report including their recommendations before the 15th of May.</p> <p>The Committee directed the basic technical committee to do a presentation on May 15, 2023, as they would be summoned before the committee again on that day.</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p><u>Answers</u> The basic technical committee did the presentation on the preliminary proposal and the report containing the recommendations was submitted to the committee.</p> |
| 03. | <p><u>Integration of data systems of government agencies</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed the CAO/ AO of the Information and Communication Technology Agency to submit a report within one month, including a short term work plan related to the integration of data systems, after studying the sections that should be enhanced in the government institutions, the data systems and the technical background, and the policies that should be taken to integrate the data systems in government institutions.</p> <p><u>Answers</u> The said report has been submitted.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was revealed before the committee that the Information and Communication Technology Agency is expected to unveil the strategic plan related to the integration of government institutions' data systems within the next 04 months.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>04.</p> | <p><u>Inland Revenue Department's Administration Management Information System (RAMIS)</u></p> | <p>The AO of the Department of Registrar of Companies declared that a situation has arisen that makes it difficult to integrate the two systems of both institutions due to the failure on the part of the Department of Inland Revenue to make a technical adjustment to the RAMIS system as they have been requested to do.</p> <p>The AO of the Inland Revenue Department stated that the lack of a unique digital identification number has become the primary obstacle in connecting the data systems of other institutions with the RAMIS system of the Inland Revenue Department.</p> |
| <p>05.</p> | <p><u>The progress of the implementation of the directives given in the Committee on Public Accounts to check the progress of the RAMIS system on 24.01.2023.</u></p> | <p>It has been revealed before the committee that the Singapore Company, to which the contract was handed over by the department, has agreed to complete the upgrading of the RAMIS system in 2024. It has also been revealed before the committee that there is a possibility of problems arising related to human resources when the RAMIS system is implemented.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Southern Provincial Council</p> <p><i>(Investigation of the Auditor General's audit reports for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination – 24 March 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government ❖ Southern Provincial Council | | |
| 01. | <p><u>The existing internal arrangement regarding the institutions subject to audit under the Southern Provincial Council.</u></p> | <p>The committee, clearly stating the manner in which the responsibilities of the provincial councils and the institutions under it are assigned and stating its legal status, mentioned that the provincial chief secretary, an appointment monitored by the executive, should be responsible for all the institutions of the province, and recommended that action be taken to issue circulars on the instructions given by the Attorney General.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>In the year 2021, Galle Municipal Council, Matara Municipal Council and Imaduwa Pradeshiya Sabha received an adverse audit opinion. Galle Municipal Council has not responded to a large number of audit queries.</u></p> | <p>The CAO (Chief Accounting Officer)/ AO (Accounting Officer) stated that the reason for the adverse audit opinion is the failure on the part of the Galle Municipal Council and Matara Municipal Council to rectify the errors shown by the audit, though they were given the opportunity to correct them. CAO/AO stated that Imaduwa Pradeshiya Sabha received an adverse</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>opinion due to a problem that arose in the submission of accounts.</p> <p>The CAO of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government stated that the proposal to the Commissioner of Local Government to establish a Provincial Internal Audit Unit to streamline the internal audit of local authorities has been forwarded to the Management Services Department for final approval with the approval of the Provincial Chief Secretaries.</p> |
| <p>03.</p> | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directive no. 07 issued in the meeting held on November 07, 2017.</u></p> <p>To recover the loss of Rs. 18,034,507 incurred to the government during the purchase of 2.5 million tea plants by the Southern Province Development Authority.</p> | <p>The committee pointed out that when the advance money was given to the supplier related to this purchase, a bank guarantee was not obtained and there are problems in the process of obtaining approval for this procurement.</p> <p>The Provincial Chief Secretary also stated that there is a lawsuit against the tea supplier to recover the loss of Rs.8.5 million and that the Attorney General has stated that there are insufficient facts to file a lawsuit against the Provincial Revenue Commissioner.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>A proper procurement procedure has not been followed for this procurement amounting to Rs. 30 million, and the committee expressed its displeasure over the discrepancy of about 6.3 million as the valuation of the land, which was kept as a collateral if the conditions of the agreement were breached, has been valued by the Valuation Department for Rs. 7 million and Provincial Revenue Department for 7 lakhs.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The committee stated that legal action should be taken against the officials who are responsible for this irregularity and directed the CAO/ AO to submit a report before April 15, 2023, on the current status of the legal actions that have been taken and the future actions to be taken.</p> <p>A report on this has been submitted by the Southern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. CSS/7/4/02/2017 dated 12.04.2023.</p> <p>According to the initial investigation report No. CSS/10/01/25/69 dated 10.08.2015, three investigation</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>committees have been appointed to deal with the actions to be taken against the responsible officials. Actions taken against the officials have also been mentioned in the report.</p> |
| <p>04.</p> | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directive no. 10 issued in the meeting held on November 07, 2017.</u></p> <p>Rs. 25,259,638 borne by the Southern Provincial Development Authority for the integrated farm of 52 acres in Hungama and animal breeding centre during 2008 to 2014 has become useless.</p> | <p>The Committee on Public Accounts had given a directive that either this land should be acquired formally and bring this project to a successful level or it should be acquired by the central government and use it for a suitable function under the line ministry. it was revealed in the committee that contrary to that directive, according to a decision of the board of directors of the authority, 30 acres of land has been leased to a private entity for 25 years on an annual lease basis.</p> <p>It was mentioned here that since this is more than 50 acres of land, it was directed to the Ministry of Lands to get Cabinet approval in the year 2020, but as it was delayed, 30 acres were given to private investment to develop the land. The CAO/ AO stated that the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the acquisition of the remaining 28 acres, and they are working to make an investment through a private-public partnership.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed the CAO/AO to prepare a proper project report regarding the development of the above 28 acres, and submit it to the committee within one month.</p> <p>A detailed report has been sent by the Southern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. CSS/07/04/03/2021 dated 24.04.2023.</p> |
| 05. | <p><u>Matters arising from the Auditor General's reports for the years 2019,2020 and 2021</u></p> <p>The Executive Officers of the island wide Services who were recruited on the approval of the Public Service Commission and assigned to the Southern Provincial Council have been given promotions, allowances and privileges contrary to the service minutes, without obtaining the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated that the Governor has given special grade positions to the first grade senior officers to fill the vacancies in the Provincial Council.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to submit a report to the Committee regarding the said appointments before April 20, 2023.</p> <p>The detailed reply No. CSS/07/04/02/2017, dated 2023.04.18, prepared by the Chief Secretary of the Southern Province, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government has forwarded a letter to the committee by letter number PL/6/7/4/SP, dated 2023.04.25, recommending that report.</p> |
| 06. | <p><u>Matters arising from the Auditor General's reports for 2019,2020 and 2021</u></p> <p>16,056 plastic chairs have been procured under the 2019 Development Plan (MPP provisions) of the Southern Provincial Development Authority, Rs. 15, 880, 200 had been spent. As it is a purchase that exceeds the limit of the Departmental Procurement Committee, contrary to the procurement guidelines code, the related procurement was done separately for the 03 districts of the province at higher prices causing a financial loss of Rs. 2,819,085 and a</p> | <p>The committee pointed out that when administrative errors are detected, it is better to take disciplinary action through internal investigations instead of filing police complaints.</p> <p>The Chief Secretary of the Southern Provincial Council stated that, as revealed by the investigation committee, they were instructed to file a police complaint as fake documents were used in this purchase, and according to the inquiry made by the investigation committee about the disciplinary authorities of the relevant officials, that information has been given, and once the charge sheets are received, disciplinary action will be taken in this regard.</p> <p>The Committee emphasized to the Chief Secretary of the Southern Province that the District Secretary</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | financial loss of Rs. 4,300,988 compared to the average market price, and among the recommendations of the investigation committee report appointed in the year 2022, only the recommendation to file a police complaint has been implemented and other recommendations have not been implemented. | should also be informed about the officials who are forming the investigation committee and the disciplinary action should be completed immediately. |
| 07. | <u>Errors pointed out by the audit, such as non-compliance with fuel limits and excess allowances.</u> | <u>Recommendations/Directives</u> The committee directed the CAO/AO to take measures to correct these errors and to provide a report on the total expenses including past excess allowances and non-compliance with the limits within a period of one month. A detailed report has been sent by the Southern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. CSS/07/04/03/2021 dated 24.04.2023. |
| 08. | Not taking necessary legal action against the 12 unauthorized residents who have occupied 0.0681 | The CAO/AO stated that the Divisional Secretary has announced |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | hectares of the 0.5535 hectares of Kalegana Resource Center land used by the Southern Province Education Department. | that these lands will be given to unauthorized dwellers on a lease. |
| 09. | Although Rs.3,501,768 was paid only for the recycling of 6,584kg of waste under the electronic waste recycling project of the Ministry of Fisheries and Environmental Affairs of the Southern Province, detailed information about the organization that received the money, the amount given, the names and dates of those who accepted, etc., have not been submitted to the audit. | The committee appreciated this project as a timely requirement and also emphasized the need to maintain relevant documents and information in a formal manner. |
| 10. | <p><u>Southern Province Mail Management Computer Programme.</u></p> <p>According to a proposal of the Hon. Governor, all the government agencies of the Southern Province were integrated to create a mail management computer program on 2020.10.07 and agreement had been signed with a contract company to Rs. 14,008,176. This has been</p> | <p>The Chief Secretary of the Southern Province also stated that only 30% of the total fee has been paid to the concerned company and that a committee is working to continue this program successfully.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee was directed to submit a report to the committee within one month, including dates regarding the implementation of the above mail</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>done without a project proposal. Moreover, in the year 2021, Rs. 27,984,663 were spent and the work was not completed on time as per the agreement. For this, 86 scanners were purchased spending Rs. 21,140,000 and only 16 of them were distributed to the institutions where the system will be installed. The objectives of the project were not fulfilled.</p> | <p>management program / its progress. ordered to</p> <p>A detailed report has been sent to the committee by the Southern Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. CSS/07/04/03/2021 dated 24.04.2023 stating that a committee has been appointed to identify the measures to be taken to increase the efficiency of the provincial public service.</p> |
| 11 | <p><u>The total assets of Southern Provincial Council in the year 2019 are Rs. 15,602 million and in the year 2021 it has been increased to Rs. 55, 372 million.</u></p> | <p>The CAO/ AO stated that previously, the Provincial Council did not enter their assets into their accounts but the Provincial Revenue Department has now assessed about 90% of the assets (buildings and land) and the reason for this increase in assets is the inclusion of the assessed assets.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to issue a circular instructing all provincial councils to take accounts/records of the assets.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>12</p> | <p><u>2022/2023 current performance.</u></p> <p>The assessment given for the asphalt machine installed in the Galagoda work yard of the Southern Provincial Road Development Authority, by the committee appointed for the assessment work was Rs. 10,400,000 and the machine was sold for Rs. 21,100,000 in the auction. Thus, the authority had lost Rs. 3,274,784 by not taking into account the 21,782 liters of tar and 4,028 liters of diesel in the machine while assessing that. The assessment value is not correct.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed the CAO/AO to give a report to the committee within one month about the reasons why 21,782 liters of tar and 4,028 liters of diesel were not taken into account in the relevant assessment.</p> <p>A detailed report has been sent by the Southern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. CSS/07/04/03/2021 dated 24.04.2023. Furthermore, it has been informed by the letter No. දප/මාසංඳ/04/05/පා.ඊ.කා.ස dated 2023.09.01 sent to the Chief Secretary of the Southern Province by referring a copy to the Committee on Public Accounts by the General Manager of the Southern Provincial Road Development Authority that an internal investigation is being carried out and that there is a case in the Balapitiya Magistrate's Court under case number 41177 to obtain the aforesaid material and that the instructions of the Attorney General have been sought through the Chief Secretary Division to obtain the money.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>Department of Samurdhi Development</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination – 25 April 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment ❖ Samurdhi Development Department | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Prevalance of excess staff and problems of integrating staff when establishing the</u></p> <p>Integration of staff has taken place under a number of classifications and the integration process has not been completed. The Committee inquired about the current progress of this matter and the staff.</p> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that the present staff was approved in 2019 and a revision of staff has been requested. The C.A.O/A.O also stated that there were some shortcomings in the staff integration process and a committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and local Government, the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and the Department of Samurdhi Dvelopment is in the process of streamlining staff integration.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O was directed to submit a comprehensive report to the Committee on or before 26.05.2023 that containing information on the manner the employees were integrated under various categories when the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>Samurdhi Authority of Sri Lanka was converted to a Department, the number of employees regarding whom integration has been finalized by now, the number of employees who have not yet been integrated and the expected period of time within which those employees would be integrated as well as the reason for the delay of the integration process.</p> <p>A comprehensive report of the secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment bearing No.SMS/ACC/01/44 dated 24.05.2023 containing the relevant information has been submitted to the Committee.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Irregularity in the selection of Samurdhi beneficiaries.</u></p> <p>Even though nearly 33% of the Samurdhi recipients do not deserve the Samurdhi benefits according to the results of an Islandwide survey conducted from 2015 to 2017, those families have been enjoying it for a long time leaving a similar percentage of deserving people in the lurch.</p> | <p>The Committee which observed the fact that some people who are in a position of leaving the Samurdhi benefit scheme do not try to do so as people are not aware of the Samurdhi benefits, other perks and privileges, stated that a programme to change this scenario should be formulated.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that the number of Samurdhi beneficiaries has been brought down to 1,648,000 at present from 19 Lakhs in 2020 and it has been</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>There are 312307 Samurdhi recipients who have received the benefits without being empowered from 1995 to 2023</p> | <p>targeted to remove around 50,000 people annually following empowerment.</p> |
| <p>03.</p> | <p><u>Expected new scheme of providing allowances.</u></p> <p>Future steps expected to be implemented in relation to linking the programme of giving benefits under a new selection with the Samurdhi programme, how the current shortcomings are expected to be overcome as the new scheme comes into operation and the impact the new scheme will have on the Samurdhi funds and Samurdhi Bank system, with the introduction of the new system in July 2023.</p> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that the new scheme is operating under a survey being conducted by the Welfare Benefits Board and that they have not yet received the details of the Samurdhi beneficiaries who would be absorbed in to it. The C.A.O/A.O stated further stated that the Samurdhi Bank has not been included in the list of banks selected to disburse funds to the beneficiaries selected under this programme.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that a rural level empowerment programme for the families of the Samurdhi programme has already been identified in line with this programme as a function of the Department of Samurdhi Development. The C.A.O/A.O stated that the preliminary discussions over the impact the new scheme would have on the Samurdhi funds and the Samurdhi Bank system are underway and that a programme would be put in place in order to strengthen the banking system with the involvement</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | of the computer system which is at its final stage of development. |
| 04. | <p><u>Empowering the Samurdhi recipients.</u></p> <p>The absence of a proper programme to empower the Samurdhi beneficiaries and the discovery that only Rs. 68 Billion has been given as loans out of the total deposits of Rs.176.3 Billion in the Samurdhi bank which was established with the objective of granting loans to the members as a means of empowerment. Shares and the balance have been invested in other commercial banks at higher rates of interest.</p> | <p>The Committee observed that these community based banks, which were established with view to strengthening the Samurdhi beneficiaries, have acted with the motive of making profits.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that 80% of the deposits of the community based banks should be used to grant loans.It was revealed here that Rs.53 Billion out of the mandatory savings of the Samurdhi beneficiaries and the departmental fund accounts which have been established with various purposes have been given for various needs of the government.</p> |
| 05. | <p><u>Provision of fishing nets to Samurdhi beneficiaries – Damana Divisional Secretary’s division.</u></p> <p>In distributing fishing nets to fishermen in the Damana Divisional Secretary’s division in 2021 as a livelihood support, sub standard nets have been given and financial irregularities</p> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that an inquiry in this regard is conducted by the Audit division.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O was directed by the committee to complete the investigations in that regard expeditiously and take the necessary measures and submit a report in that to</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>have occurred but no steps have been taken in that regard so far.</p> | <p>the committee on or before 26.05.2023.</p> <p>The letter of the secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment bearing No.SMS/ACC/01/44 dated 24.05.2023 has stated that arrangements are being made to initiate disciplinary action in that regard as per the audit inquiry report.</p> |
| <p>06.</p> | <p><u>Payment of relief on foreign donations.</u></p> <p>The department has failed to provide accurate statistical information about the beneficiaries to the World Bank in the distribution of Rs.39,640 Million received from the World Bank as a financial assistance in 2022 resulting in returning a sum of Rs,1096 Million by the banks and non settlement of Rs. 107 Million to the treasury by March 2023.</p> | <p>It was stated here that funds were requested from the treasury based on the data contained in the waiting lists provided by the National Secretariat for Elders and the National Secretariat for the persons with disabilities and the funds so received were sent to banks. Based on the instruction of the treasury that only one payment be made to a family in the payment of those allowances, the number of families in the lists were low resulting in funds remaining that required those funds to be returned by banks, opined the C.A.O/A.O.</p> |
| <p>07.</p> | <p><u>Non-establishment of the Divineguma Development Fund and the Divineguma</u></p> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O who said that the approval of the treasury has been sought to establish the Divineguma</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p><u>Circular Fund’ as per Sections 36 and 37 of the Divineguma Act no. 01 of 2013.</u></p> | <p>Development Fund by now and even without the establishment of the Fund the necessary arrangements are being made to meet the objectives of the Act. The C.A.O/A.O also stated that it has been advised by the Attorney General’s Department that there is no need for establishing the Divineguma Circular Fund as the Department has no funds coming under circular funds.</p> |
| <p>08.</p> | <p><u>Computer System operational at the Community Based Banks.</u></p> <p>The attention of the Committee was focused on the current state of this computer system and the services provided to the Samurdhi beneficiaries by it.</p> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that the Software is implemented online with Sri Lanka Telecom and Soft Watch Infosys, the companies from which the Software was obtained at the earlier occasions, subject to a monthly service fee on the approval of the Bank Management Board, as the need for properly computerizing the banking system arose in 2020. The C.A.O/A.O also stated that this system has been established at 1081 branches out of the 1089 branches except at 08 branches where problems regarding the provision of Internet facilities have been encountered. The C.A.O/A.O expressed his optimism over the possibility of bringing the entire banking system under a fully computerized network by the end of this year.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O was directed by the committee to submit the plan containing the functions and relevant periods of time of the programme of providing services upon computerising all Samurdhi Banks on 26.05.2023 and submit a report obtained from the District Managers on the issues pertaining to this computer system to the committee on 26.05.2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through the letter of the secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment bearing No.SMS/ACC/01/44 dated 24.05.2023.</p> |
| 09. | <p><u>Functioning of Community based banks and bank societies.</u></p> <p>The Samurdhi Act has not yet been amended to enable the Auditor General to audit the Divineguma Community based banks and community based bank societies and the powers granted by the Samurdhi community based bank societies circulars to these banks and bank societies</p> | <p>The committee emphasized the need of subjecting these banks and bank societies to auditing by the Auditor General.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that Attorney General’s advice has been sought in relation to conferring these audit matters to the Auditor General.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to send a reminder to the Attorney General’s Department so as</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | to have them audited by external auditors have been assigned to the internal audit unit of the Department. | to enable it to be submitted at the next committee meeting. |
| 10. | <u>Improving the living conditions of the Samurdhi recipients.</u> | <u>Recommendations/ Directives</u> The C.A.O/A.O was directed by the committee to formulate a programme in conjunction with the five institutions under the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and the Ministry of Health to improve the living conditions of the Samurdhi recipients and submit a report containing the details of it to the committee before 09.05.2023. A comprehensive report has been submitted through the letter of the secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment bearing No.SMS/ACC/01/44 dated 08.05.2023. |
| Department of Police <i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i> Date of Examination – 26 April 2023 | | |
| Institutions Summoned – ❖ Ministry of Public Security | | |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| ❖ Department of Police | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Maintaining an Information Technology system and utilizing new technology.</u></p> <p>Even though the Department of Police maintains a Database in relation to some units as per the directive given by the committee on 22.06.2016 on the need to maintain a Database required to ensure an efficient Police service, there is no updated Database in regard to offences referred to the court coupled with the absence of a system to issue fine sheets automatically and the discovery of shortcomings regarding the control of stocks control.</p> | <p>The Inspector General of Police stated that a huge cost has to be borne to modernize the Computerised data system of the Department of Police. He also mentioned about the availability of a data system to manage human resources. The I.G.P also stated that arrangements are being made to set up a data system that can monitor all the steps of a complaint from the time of receipt to the point of conclusion and that such projects have already in place in the Nuwara Eliya and Hatton divisions.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The secretary to the Ministry of Public Security was directed by the Committee to submit a report detailing the overall programme along with dates of utilizing Information Technology to fulfil the services expected of the Department of Police and to improve the quality thereof as well as the utilizing modern technology for police investigations including the prevention of crimes and the obstacles or them, within a month.</p> <p>The relevant report has been sent to the Committee through the letter of</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>the secretary to the Ministry of Public Security bearing number PS/IA/COPA/114/23 and dated 2023.06.01.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Matters contained in chapters 4.1 to 5.9 of discussion note of the meeting of the Committee held on 22.06.2016</u></p> <p>4.1 Withdrawing from the Procurement Guidelines process.</p> <p>4.2 Not recovering fines from a Police officer who went abroad in violation of agreements.</p> <p>4.3 Weaknesses in implementing projects.</p> <p>5.1 Advances given out of the Police Reward Fund.</p> <p>5.2 Unutilized equipment.</p> <p>5:3 Purchasing animals and animal feed from institutions without formal licenses.</p> | <p>It was revealed at the Committee that no inquiry has been conducted on these matters by the Ministry of Public Security in conjunction with the Auditor General despite such an inquiry has been ordered to be conducted by the Committee.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>Accordingly, the Committee directed the secretary to the Ministry of Public Security to discuss the matter with the Auditor General and submit a report in that regard before the 1st of July 2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been sent to the Committee through the letter of the secretary to the Ministry of Public Security bearing number PS/IA/COPA/114/23 and dated 30.06.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>5:4 Not maintaining the fixed assets register and a computer accessories and software register.</p> <p>5:5 Purchasing 21 horses from a foreign company and horses dying.</p> <p>5:6. Weaknesses/irregularities of the procurement process of the Department of Police.</p> <p>5:7 Grave Crimes</p> <p>5:8 Traffic control and road safety</p> <p>5:9 Illegal tranquilizers being reported, seized and prosecuted.</p> | |
| 03. | <p><u>Relative increase of crimes in 2022 compared to 2019.</u></p> | <p>It was stated here that grave crimes have been identified under three categories such as offences on the body, offences on property and crimes without prey as per the circular of the Inspector General of Police bearing number 2727/2021. It was stated before the Committee that grave crimes have increased on raids without prey and that various methods are being adopted to curtail crimes. The C.A.O/A.O stated that special attention is paid on the use of technology and analysis of</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>data in that regard. It was also revealed before the Committee that there are 7 Databases in the Crime Report division for various purposes.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee emphasized the importance of speedily removing the name of a person, who is included in the database as a suspect, is freed from the relevant offence. The Committee also pointed out that it is important to include the offences pertaining to drugs and the offenders in the database.</p> |
| 04. | <u>Settlement of criminal cases.</u> | <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that steps such as implementing programmes to enhance the knowledge of Police Officers in order to curtail crimes, implementing awareness programmes for the public, increasing Police mobile patrols, educating the public through the Community Police System and acting in collaboration with other institutions.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Inspector General of Police was directed by the Committee to educate the Judicial Services Commission on all relevant circulars issued by the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Inspector General of Police so that the efficiency of the Police service can be enhanced by preventing the inconveniences caused to the Police Officers attending Courts.</p> |
| 05. | <u>Police Reward Fund</u> | <p>The Committee inquired on the main objectives of the Police Reward Fund and whether the officers who deserved rewards from that fund have been properly rewarded.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O while pointing out the fact that motivating the Police officers on duty was the main objective of the fund, stated that all police officers who were to be rewarded out of the fund have been rewarded except for a few.</p> <p>It was revealed that the payments out of the fund are made in terms of the orders of the Gazette Extraordinary dated 09.03.1990.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Department of Police was directed by the Committee to make arrangements to update those orders to suit the modern times and increase the rewards given to the Traffic Police officers who make a mighty contribution to the nourishment of the Fund.</p> |
| 06. | <u>Staff</u> | <p>The Committee which considered the vacancies in the Uniform Staff inquired about a large number of</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>vacancies in women officer cadres. The Committee paid its attention to the lack of proper follow up regarding complaints on Children’s and women’s cases owing to the existence of vacancies in the women officer cadres.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that there is no officer who is qualified to be appointed to the post of Senior Woman Deputy Inspector General of Police at present, four Senior Superintendants of Police cover duties of the four Woman Deputy Inspectors General of Police, only 72 vacancies exist for woman Inspectors of Police according to the promotions that effected from 08.02.2022 and that Woman Police Constables cannot be appointed as appointments to the public service have been suspended at present.</p> <p>The Inspector General of Police stated that a post of Senior Woman Deputy Inspector General of Police and four posts of Woman Inspector General of Police have been created by now.</p> <p>The Committee observed that the the number of vacancies and excess positions cannot be specified exactly owing to complexities such as the absence of a specific staff for Police stations, granting promotions in a</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>manner that is personal to some officers and filling of vacancies in the assisting posts from officers on te Uniform staff. The Committee also observed that the recruitment and promotion procedure do not function properly.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that promotions have been given outside of the recruitment procedure through many methods at numerous occasions since 2010. The C.A.O/A.O stated that, later in the year 2019, with the approval of the National Police Commission, Department of Management Services and the Salaries and Cadre Commission, the officers who had not been promoted for a long time were given personal promotions on the recruitment of supernumerary basis even though there were no vacancies.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that, presently the Police Department's regular recruitment and promotion procedure is being implemented and to in order to solve the matters relating to the Police Narcotics Bureau staff, a restructuring process is underway. The Committee ordered the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security to make the necessary requests and report to the Committee to fill the vacancies in the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>Internal Audit Division of the Police Department.</p> <p>As informed via the letter of the Secretary, Ministry of Public Security bearing No. PS/IA/COPA/114/23 dated 30.06.2023, a written request has been submitted to the Director General of the Department of Management Services on 15.05.2023 to provide the necessary approval to the proposal to create 129 out of 640 management service posts as per the Financial Regulation 71.</p> |
| 07. | <u>Inadequacies in the Police Central Armoury</u> | <u>Recommendations/ Directives</u> The committee ordered the expedited disposal of expired tear gas shells, tear gas grenades, and expired weapons in all police stations across Sri Lanka. Additionally, the Committee highlighted the waste of money due to over-ordering these materials and emphasized the need to prevent such occurrences in the future. |
| 08. | <u>The use of tear gas according to international conventions and controlling the public during riots</u> | <u>Recommendations/ Directives</u> The Committee also ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Public |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Security to get directions from the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka regarding the rules, conventions to be followed for the use of tear gas according to international conventions and controlling the public during riots, to work accordingly and to submit a report thereof to the committee before 1st of June, 2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted by the letter No. PS/IA/COPA/114/23 dated 01.06.2023 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security. Accordingly, a committee has been appointed to get recommendations on the matter and according to the statement dated 27.04.1997 published by the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, tear gas was used to control public unrest and illegal gatherings. It has been informed that the taking can be done.</p> <p>Further, it has been informed that the methods currently used in dispersing unlawful assemblies and the series of guidelines issued by the Human Rights Commission regarding the use of force by the police in public disturbances are currently being studied by the</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Police Legal Division and that more efficient and professional procedures would be adopted within the legal framework in the future.</p> |
| <p>09.</p> | <p><u>Lack of data system in Central Armory and danger of retaining expired weapons</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that all weapons owned by the police department have been computerized according to a survey conducted in the years 2019 and 2020. The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated the absence of a networked computer data system is however a weakness, and therefore the method of implementing the computer data system should be further expanded.</p> <p>Further, the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that 153 tons of unusable weapons and 102 tons of expired equipment that could explod have been destroyed as of now and measures are being taken to destroy the expired weapons and explosives in police stations.</p> <p>Also, the Inspector General of Police stated that steps are being taken to establish modernized armories for police stations.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 10. | <u>Efficient maintenance of Police service</u> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized the importance of having a programme in which all relevant institutions such as police stations, courts, prisons and the Department of Motor Traffic could be connected to each other in order to do this.</p> |
| 11. | <u>Demerit Points System for Driving License</u> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security to take immediate steps to implement this Demerit Point System.</p> |
| 12. | <u>Implementation of language training programmes for police officers</u> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee stressed the significance of providing language training to police officers because of the linguistic barriers they encounter in Tamil-speaking regions and while interacting with tourists.</p> <p>The C.A.O./A.O intimated that Residential Tamil Language Training Centres had been established in Vavuniya and Trincomalee.</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>Further the C.A.O./A.O added that nearly 1200 officers were expected to be recruited from the Northern, Eastern provinces and Hill Country areas and attention would also be paid to the Tamil language proficiency of the officers when assigning them duties in specific places.</p> |
| <p>Uva Provincial Council</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination – 09 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government ❖ Uva Provincial Council | | |
| 01. | <u>Importation and distribution of seed potatoes</u> | <p>It was revealed before the Committee that Rs. 9.6 million was to be collected as at 14.03.2017, out of the amount given on credit basis to the government employees for the supply of seed potatoes under this programme. The CAO /AO stated that they are taking action to recover these outstanding debts.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The Committee directed the Secretary to the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture to provide a report on the current situation to the Committee before 20.06.2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.ක.ස. dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>02 Sub-leasing of a land in Welimada Divisional Secretariat Division to a private party by the Broadcasting Corporation</u></p> | <p>The Committee pointed out that the Provincial Council lost an amount of Rs. 8,680,000/- due to the fact that a land situated in Meepilimana in Welimada Divisional Secretariat Division , which had been leased to the Broadcasting Corporation, was leased to a private party by the Broadcasting Corporation.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that 05 acres of the land has been leased to the interim party and action would be taken to collect the lease from that person as per the judgement of the case filed in this regard.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Uva Provincial Council to enter into a formal agreement with the private party and take action to collect the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>money owed to the Provincial Council, as per the order of the case filed in this regard.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ ඊ.ක.ස. dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 03. | <u>Haliela Computer Resource Training Centre</u> | <p>The Committee observed that the advance fees of Rs.12,020,200/- that should be collected due to the non-completion of the construction work of this computer resource training center and the late fees of Rs.1,721,204/- had not been collected.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The CAO/ AO stated that the money due from the said contractor has been recovered through other projects given to him.</p> <p>The Committee ordered the Uva Provincial Council to take necessary action to complete the construction of this project, which has not yet been completed.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>2/UPC/5/ඊ.ක.ස. and dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>An amount of over 132 million rupees has been overpaid up to September 2020 as wages for the 778 positions of school library worker, school laboratory worker, and school watchman recruited by the Uva Provincial Council from the year 2006 to the year 2017</u></p> | <p>The Committee observed that an amount of Rs.132,825,714/- has been paid as wages additionally due to the fact these employees were placed at the first step of salary scale of Grade II instead of at the first step of salary scale of Grade III on their recruitment.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the salary increments of those employees were stopped in order to correct this error in the recruitment process.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Uva Provincial Council to submit a report to the Committee before 20.06.2023 regarding the measures taken to correct the issue of overpayment of salaries to the above 778 officials</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.ක.ස. and dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 05 | <p><u>Project related to Udawalawa Tourist Restroom and Shops</u></p> | <p>The Committee observed that no income has been generated for a period of 3 years from the project related to restrooms and shops that had been</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>started in the year 2013 with the aim of promoting the tourism industry since it was not opened in the year 2020, even though an amount of Rs. 39,824,944/- had been spent by the year 2018.</p> <p>Also, the Committee pointed out that there has been a financial loss due to the fact that construction work was continued not being concerned about the purpose of this project.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that action is being at present to generate income by leasing this building to a lessee.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Uva Provincial Council to provide a complete report including all the facts with the current status of this project. The Committee ordered that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Minister of State for Tourism.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඓ.ක.ස. dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 06 | <u>Projects not utilized effectively</u> | The Committee observed as a general fact that many projects initiated in |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Provincial Councils have not been effectively utilized.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>Accordingly, the Committee ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government to obtain a register of the projects where money was invested but not utilized in the 7 provincial councils, namely North, North Central, Sabaragamuwa East, North West, West, and Central (date of project initiation, amount of money used, objectives of the project, current status, and the proposals of each provincial council to use those projects effectively) from the respective Provincial Council and submit it to the Committee before June 20, 2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through the letter No. PL/6/7/4/Uva dated 05.07.2023 of the Additional Secretary, Ministry of State Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.</p> |
| 07 | <p><u>The bridges constructed by the Uva Provincial Road Development Department</u></p> | <p>The Committee inquired as to why it has not been able to use 05 bridges that were constructed at a cost of 153</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p><u>under the Rural Bridge Project at a cost of 153 million rupees, which are at an unusable state</u></p> | <p>million rupees up until now since 2015.</p> <p>The CAO/AO informed that the further work on these bridges has been stopped due to insufficient financial allocation.</p> <p>The Committee pointed out the need to take policy decisions to complete the old projects before starting new ones.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Roads of the Uva Provincial Council to submit to the Committee before 20.06.2023 a written report of all the issues related to these 05 bridges including their current status and effectiveness focusing on the problematic situations arising in the construction of bridges in the Uva Provincial Council area.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.කා.ස. and dated 14.06.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 08 | <p><u>The manner in which the Provincial Council/ Governor of the Province functioned in regard to the circulars issued by the Presidential Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance as well as other government circulars of national importance</u></p> | <p>The Committee observed instances in which payments had been made violating the existing circulars, such as making additional fuel payments to the Governor and the Governor's Coordinating Secretary, paying a special allowance of Rs. 13,222,231/- as 25% of the basic salary to 30 officers of the Council Secretariat, and paying an amount of 8,867,895/- rupees as a gratuity to the officers of the personal staff of Uva Provincial Councilors in the year 2021.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>Accordingly, the Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government to submit a report to the Committee before 20.06.2023 as to whether the Provincial Governor or the Provincial Council has the ability to override the circulars issued by the Presidential Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance, as well as other circulars of national importance and legal situation related to it.</p> <p>It has been informed that, as per the letter No. PL/6/7/4/Uva dated June 26, 2023, of the Additional Secretary</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government, the Provincial Council or the Provincial Governor is not subject to the provisions of the circulars issued by the Ministry of Finance or the Presidential Secretariat in relation to the subjects assigned to the Provincial Councils by the Provincial Council List in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, and that the Provincial Council has absolute power to enact statutes on those subjects since those subjects are assigned to the Provincial Council.</p> |
| 09 | <p><u>Matters related to payments contrary to the rules and regulations mentioned in 3.1, 3.3, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 4.1 and 4.2 of the discussion note dated 09.05.2023 submitted by the National Audit Office</u></p> | <p>The CAO/AO was directed by the Committee to submit before the Committee a report with explanations including the laws related to provincial councils and the provisions of the statutes of provincial councils governing the payments mentioned in these paragraphs, along with the observations of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government on the matters mentioned</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>in the report through that Ministry before 20.06.2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through the Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/8.කා.ස. dated 14.06.2023.</p> |
| 10 | <p><u>Stocks of expired drugs in hospitals</u></p> | <p>It was disclosed before the Committee that drug stocks worth Rs.20,465,781/- had expired and stocks worth Rs.4,648,532/- had been identified as drugs in poor condition as of 31.12.2021 in Welimada, Diyathalawa, Mahianganaya, Basic Hospitals and Bandarawela and Passara District Hospitals that are under the purview of the the Uva Provincial Health Services Department.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the expired stock of drugs is only 1% of the total estimate. The CAO/AO also stated that the above situation was caused by the decreased number of patients coming to the hospitals due to the COVID epidemic situation and the delivery of drugs with a close expiration date by the medical supply division in Colombo.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u> <p>The Committee pointed out that it will be possible to obtain the medicines for the coming year without delay by providing the annual estimates for medicines in advance, thus preventing a shortage of medicines. Also, the Committee pointed out that it is important to inform the medical supply division about expired and quality-failed medicines.</p> |
| 11 | <u>Recovery of tax arrears on lands leased by provincial councils</u> | <p>It was observed by the Committee that an amount of 75,776,346/- was to be charged as of 31.12.2021 from 87 lessees out of 88 lease licenses that had been granted.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Lands to submit to it before 20.06.2023 a report which includes the manner in which each provincial council acts in regard to matters including the amount of arrears of tax to be collected from provincial council lands, the action taken by the line ministry regarding the collection of such taxes, how the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>provincial councils should act to collect arrears of taxes, entering into agreements in leasing land and the actions to be taken when the agreements are breached.</p> <p>The relevant reports have been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.ක.ස. dated 14.06.2023 and through the letter No. 4-2/1/1/12 dated 18.08.2023 of the Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Lands and Tourism.</p> |
| 12 | <p><u>Recovery of tax money stated in 4.3 of the discussion note dated 09.05.2023 submitted by the National Audit Office</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the failure of the relevant contractor to remit the amount of value added tax (VAT) of over 5 million rupees related to the construction of the proposed five-storey official housing complex for the officers of the Uva Provincial Council to the Inland Revenue Department and the Committee directed the Provincial Council to provide to the Committee the documents which confirm the facts described in this paragraph with a copy to the Auditor General.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted through the Uva</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.කා.ස. dated 18.06.2023.</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Staff of the schools under the purview of the Uva Provincial Council School</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are teacher vacancies in some schools of the Uva Provincial Council while there is excess staff in some schools. • The Committee determined that maintaining updated and accurate data is critical to making sound decisions regarding school staffing, including teacher balance. |
| 14 | <p><u>The five-storey housing complex built for Uva Provincial Council officials</u></p> | <p>The committee inquired about the current situation of this project.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that an amount of 34 million rupees has been estimated for the completion of the work on the ground floor and the first floor, and that the work is expected to be completed in phases depending on the manner in which allocations are received.</p> |
| 15 | <p><u>The project related to imported milch cows which cost Rs.48 million</u></p> | <p>It was also revealed that 32 of these dairy cows imported from Australia and 119 calves born from them died during the period from 2018 up to 15.08.2022 due to the lack of</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | resistance to climatic conditions and diseases. The CAO/AO stated that food is being supplied in a systematic manner at present and the mortality of animals was controlled in the year compared to the previous years. |
| 16 | <u>Audit and Management Committees</u> | <u>Recommendations/ Directives</u> The Committee emphasized the need of holding audit and management committees in a systematic manner. |
| 17 | <u>Industrial sector in Uva Provincial Council</u> | <u>Recommendations/ Directives</u> The Committee directed the Director of the Industrial Development Department of the Provincial Council to prepare a 3-year plan for industrial development in the Provincial Council and submit it to the Committee before 20.06.2023. The relevant report has been submitted through Uva Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. 2/UPC/5/ඊ.කා.ස. dated 14.06.2023. |

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| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| <p align="center">Department of Inland Revenue</p> <p align="center"><i>(To examine the current performance and the progress of implementation of the directives given in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 28.11.2022)</i></p> <p align="center">Date of examination- 12 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy, ❖ Inland Revenue Department | | |
| <p>01</p> | <p><u>Total arrears of tax, penalty and interest income</u></p> | <p>It was revealed that out of the total arrears of tax, penalty and interest income, the chargeable income in RAMIS and Legacy computer systems as on 31.12.2022 is Rs. 163,425,093,401 and out of that total amount Rs.109,368,553,575/- belongs to RAMIS system and Rs.54,056,539,826/- belongs to Legacy system.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) / Accounting Officer (AO) to submit to the Committee an Individual Breakup report containing the measures taken to recover the total chargeable income of Rs.163,425,093,401.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee before , 15th June 2023,</p> <p>(i) the amount of arrears of tax, penalty and interest chargeable, together with the dates on which such chargeable income will be collected in installments or the manner in which h it will be collected ; and</p> <p>(ii) a report containing the amount of uncollectible arrears of tax, penalty and interest and the reasons for such impossibility for the recovery , the amount of arrears of tax, penalty and interest, if any, to be written off and the reasons for writing off the same,</p> <p>out of the above arrears of tax, penalty and interest amounting to Rs. 904,342,180, 778/- .</p> <p>The said report has been submitted through the Inland Revenue Commissioner's letter No. FPFS/Comm/2023/25 dated 15.06.2023.</p> |
| 02. | judicial proceeding regarding the recovery of the total arrears of taxes, penalties and interest income belonging to | The AO pointed out before the Committee that tax collection will be temporarily suspended if the taxpayer files a tax appeal, and he also pointed |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | the Legacy system and the appeal period of the tax appeals related to those arrears | out the need for a separate court (a Dedicated Court) for tax-related cases with the intervention of the government. |
| 03. | Payment of salaries to 81 officers of the Inland Revenue Department, for the implementation of RAMIS system | <p>The AO stated that after the development of the RAMIS system, the relevant developer would give time to test the system, and a test scenario should be written for each test where an additional payment would be made to the officers employed in the regular service of the Inland Revenue Department for that purpose because the testing process continued until the defects identified in the system were corrected.</p> <p>Furthermore, the AO further stated that there were no officers in the department, who had knowledge on Data Science to deal with the data extraction.</p> |
| 04. | The number of Tax Assessors and the number of Tax Files that were temporarily suspended in the Department of Inland Revenue. | The Committee inquired about the number of Tax Assessors in the Inland Revenue Department, and the AO stated that nearly six hundred Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Senior Assistant Commissioners are employed for that purpose. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The Committee inquired about the number of tax files in which tax collection has been temporarily suspended, and the AO stated that there are nearly 03 lakh of such individual files.</p> |
| 05. | <p>The fact that the Inland Revenue Department does not have the necessary IT personnel to carry out its maintenance work after the implementation of the RAMIS system</p> | <p>The AO stated that discussions were held with the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and the Department of Management Services in this regard, and requests were made to provide a number of 39 ICT Officers to implement several modules that can be maintained by the Inland Revenue Department.</p> <p>The AO stated that since the existing salary structure in the public service is not sufficient for IT services, it is expected to recruit fully qualified officers under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to provide IT services to the institutions under the purview of the Ministry and continue the services provided by the relevant institutions.</p> <p>Since the ICT Assistant who was employed at the Inland Revenue</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Department at that time that received training as an Information Technology Officer (ICT Officer) in the Data Center (Data Center) where the Inland Revenue Department's RAMIS system is implemented has now been appointed to the position of Information Technology Officer, it was brought to the attention of the Committee that the services of the data center may come up with problems due to the transfer of the officer from the Inland Revenue Department because of his promotion.</p> <p><u>Recommendations /Directives</u></p> <p>Accordingly, the Committee instructed the CAO of the Ministry of Economic Stabilization and National Policy to submit a letter informing the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government regarding the cancellation of the aforesaid transfer under the instructions of the Committee on Public Accounts in order to keep the said IT officer in the service of the Inland Revenue Department furthermore.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 06. | <p>Maintenance Agreement entered into between the Inland Revenue Department and the developer of the RAMIS system for the further development of the RAMIS system ends on January 01, 2024.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit it before 15th July 2023 a comprehensive report which includes the timeline in which the Inland Revenue Department will be vested the complete ownership of the RAMIS system after maintenance agreement related to the RAMIS system expires on 01st January 2024, the programme with timelines of the action to be taken in regard to the complete functioning of the RAMIS system once its ownership is obtained by the Inland Revenue Department and the officers who will be entrusted with the responsibilities of the complete functioning of the system once it is completely put into action.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted through the Inland Revenue Commissioner's letter No. FPFS/Comm/2023/25 dated 15.06.2023.</p> <p>It was disclosed at this point that with the introduction of the new Inland Revenue Act in 2017, since the RAMIS 1.0 system that existed then was not able to implement the newly</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>introduced tax policies, the RAMIS 2.0 system had to be introduced, and there is a problematic situation to the effect that if new tax policies are introduced in the future too, they would not be able to be implemented in the RAMIS 2.0 system as well.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee observed that 13 of the 19 modules of the RAMIS 2.0 system are currently not operational, and the CAO/AO was directed to submit before the Committee a detailed report that includes timelines in which the 13 modules can be separately implemented to the fullest.</p> <p><u>Answers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been notified that no module in RAMIS 2.0 system is inactive and all modules are under development and user testing <p>It was disclosed before the Committee that the University of Moratuwa provides the Third Party Quality Assurance related to the operation of the RAMIS system and the value of contract entered into with the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>University of Moratuwa to provide the relevant quality assurance when making requests for changes in the RAMIS 2.0 system close to 58 million rupees .</p> |
| 07. | <p>Due to the fact that checks being dishonored in the payment of taxes through cheques, it was directed in the earlier Public Accounts Committee to resort to the use of bank orders as alternative methods for tax payment, but it is not being implemented properly and the value of the dishonored cheques that should be charged to the Inland Revenue Department as at 30th June 2022 remained at 2.4 billion rupees .</p> <p>The Committee inquired as to why legal action cannot be taken under the Inland Revenue Act against the tax payer who presents dishonored cheques, even though legal action can be taken against those who present dishonored checks according to the common law of the country.</p> | <p>It was disclosed before the Committee that the tax money to be paid by the tax payer is paid through checks through People's Bank or Bank of Ceylon and the majority of tax payments are made through Bank of Ceylon.</p> <p>It was disclosed before the Committee that People's Bank credits the cheques received in this way to the Commissioner General's account of the Inland Revenue Department after they are cleared and that Bank of Ceylon credits the money to the Inland Revenue Commissioner General's account before the checks are cleared, but though it is indicated that the money has been credited into the account of the Inland Revenue Commissioner General, the value of the cheque is removed from it if the check is dishonored in clearance.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <u>Recommendations / Directives</u> The Committee directed the CAO of the Ministry of Finance to take necessary decisions in this regard in consultation with Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank and Ceylon Clear Private Company. |
| 08. | <p>The fact those who run Casino businesses are required to pay a tax of 200 million rupees annually and that a penalty is charged for the annual tax paid after the due date.</p> <p>In Sri Lanka, there are 4 entities involved in the casino business, and out of them, only the arrears of tax have been collected from 2 casino businesses, but no action has been taken to collect the related penalty interest, and action has been taken only to collect the arrears of tax and fines due from two other business entities.</p> | <u>Recommendations / Directives</u> (i) The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit a report to the Committee on the legal measures taken in relation to the two casino business entities that have not paid the annual tax and whether the related penalty interest has been charged from the two casino business entities from which the arrears of tax that have only been recovered. The said report has been submitted through the Inland Revenue Commissioner's letter No. FPFS/Comm/2023/25 dated 15.06.2023. (ii) The Committee directed CAO/AO that the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy and the |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>Department of Inland Revenue should meet at least twice a month and hold relevant discussions and maintain proper coordination between the two institutions in order to identify the existing problems related to tax administration and find solutions to them.</p> <p>The Hon. Chair informed that the Department of Inland Revenue would be summoned before the Committee after a month to examine the progress of this meeting.</p> |
| <p>Meeting to review the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information technology systems</p> <p>Date of Examination : 23 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prime Minister's Office, Presidential Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, Ministry of Technology, Department of Registration of Persons, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Import and Export Control, Department of Agriculture, Department of Motor Traffic, Department of Excise, Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Company Registrar, Registrar General's Department, Food Control Unit - Ministry of Health, Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Information and Communication Technology Agency | | |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>01.</p> | <p>Presenting the proposals and progress of the Main Technical Committee, headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister.</p> | <p>The Secretary to the Prime Minister stated that the thirteen main institutions included in the aforementioned interim report were informed to present their proposals and the obstacles against achieving those proposals, based on the target of increasing the state revenue by the year 2024, namely Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, Ministry of Technology, Department of Registration of Persons, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Import and Export Control, Department of Agriculture, Department of Motor Traffic, Excise Department , Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Company Registrar, Registrar General's Department, Food Control Unit - Ministry of Health, Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Lanka Standards Institute.</p> <p><u>General observations</u></p> <p>The main obstacle was identified as the inability to retain people with sufficient knowledge in the field of information technology to work in</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>government institutions due to the low salary structure in the public service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a solution to that problem, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies is expected to recruit the necessary human resources according to the market conditions and assign them to those institutions according to the nature of the IT projects of the relevant government institutions. • The Prime Minister's Secretary stated that it is expected to give priority to the people who have been approved to be recruited from the competitive examinations held in the Information Technology Service, to be employed in these 13 institutions and after that to assign them to other government institutions in the next 06 months |
| 02. | Plans related to increasing government revenue through information technology in the Department of Registration of Persons | <p>- That the process of issuing National ID cards is done by a software which is connected to the 335 Divisional Secretariat offices through VPN-</p> <p>Arrangements have been made to create a special Application Programming Interface (API) to</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>provide information directly according to the requests of organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrangements have been made to register and renew the photo service providers and to enable the payment of fees online with effect from 01.06.2023. - It was revealed before the committee that preliminary work is being done to set up a national personal data system to provide a Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SLUDI) number by obtaining the biometric data of the citizens.. <p>The accounting officer of the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that MOSIP Platform, a free and open source software, is used as the Data Identification and Authentication Platform for the SLUDI project under Indian aid. Furthermore, the committee observed that the main elements of the SLUDI project namely Biometric Devices, Software, Biometric Data Capturing System and Data Center are covered under the aid.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>The committee observed that the estimated allocation for the development of the electronic national identity card was 08 billion rupees in the year 2011, 14.6 billion rupees in the year 2019 and currently the estimated allocation is 41 billion rupees. It was revealed before the committee that out of this amount, Rs.22.3 billion and Rs.18.7 billion will be allocated under Indian aid and through treasury funds respectively.</p> |
| 03. | <p>The committee paid special attention to the financial allocation made by the Treasury for the development of the electronic national identity card.</p> | <p>-Accordingly, 940 more centers should be established in addition to the 335 Divisional Secretariats for the process of collecting biometric data of the citizens since 16 million citizens are eligible for the e-Identity Card, and that they should get the necessary resources.</p> <p>- That the project is proposed to be completed and implemented within 1 ½ years according to the cabinet decision.</p> <p>- The treasury allocations spent on the system can be saved, if the institution has the human resource and other resources needed to maintain the system and collect data, and the AO of</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that the lack of those resources in the Department of Registration of Persons is a problem here. |
| 04. | Sri Lanka Customs plans to increase government revenue through information technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the plans of the committee appointed to implement the Single Window system, it is estimated that the system will cost about 20 million USD. • That arrangements are being made to procure the related financial provisions. • Software specification of risk management system is prepared and submitted for procurement process approval. • The option to pay customs fees online has been made available from 2017. • Data exchange between the new ASYHUB system and the ASYCUDA system through electronic medium for digitalization of global shipping trade will be initiated in July 2023 as a pilot project. • This is expected to be completed by the end of the year. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| 05. | Plans related to increasing government revenue through IT in the Import and Export Control Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the EXBS Program operating under the US Embassy has agreed to provide STRATLINK, (as per United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1540) a computer system for the issuance of import and export permits as a grant. • That the development of this system, which has been started from April 24, 2023, will be completed in February 2024. |
| 06. | Plans related to increasing government revenue through information technology in the Department of Agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an online payment system with the capital and technical support of the International Trade Center has been started for the National Plant Quarantine Service. • It was announced that a contract will be entered into with the People's Bank and the project will be completed in August 2023. • Thus the expected growth in revenue is Rs. 18 million to Rs. 100 million. • Plant Quarantine Information Management System (PQIMS), which started in 2019 under KOICA support, will automate all functions, including the issuance of import permits. • The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| 07. | Plans of Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) to increase government revenue through information technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other services provided by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute are planned to be provided as E-Services before the end of 2023. • Before the end of June 2023, customers will be able to download the Sri Lanka standards by paying online through the SLSI website. • The committee observed that the online system of import inspection scheme, which has been operating since November 2018, has been integrated with the ASYCUDA system of Sri Lanka Customs. • It is expected to generate an income of around 1100 million rupees by providing other services as E-Services in the year 2023. • That an integrated information management system is planned to be completed in three phases for the efficient performance of the internal affairs of the Sri Lanka Standards Institute. |
| 08. | Plans to increase government revenue through the use of information technology in the Department of Motor Traffic. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That 10 district offices have been upgraded as online offices, and remaining district offices are planned to be upgraded as online offices under Phase IV. • That the observations and recommendations of the committee |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>formed under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Prime Minister in accordance with the Cabinet decision dated 21.02.2023 for the speedy implementation of the E-Motoring project have now been submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Demerit Project will facilitate the collection of spot fines from drivers for traffic offenses or the online payment possibility. |
| 09. | Sri Lanka Excise Department related plans to increase government revenue through information technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Excise Department has appointed a committee for risk management and has identified the major risks. • Accordingly, it is observed that arrangements can be made to install a suitable software system, but currently a security seal strip project is being effectively used. • Establishing target dates for implementing an active system for revenue management, identifying short-term measures to increase revenue. |
| 10 | Inland Revenue Department related plans to increase government revenue through information technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been proposed to provide the data of the new vehicle registration and ownership transfer software system of the motor traffic department to the Inland Revenue Department. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the remaining modules of the RAMIS 2.0 project are planned to be completed in three phases (by the end of May 2023, July 2023, September 2023). <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The report containing the necessary proposals for the development of the data system related to all 13 related institutions represented by the primary technical committee headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister, along with the dates and information of the officials responsible for implementing the data system of each institution, shall be submitted by July 7, 2023. The Committee ordered the Secretary to the Prime Minister to present it to the Committee.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through Prime Minister's letter No. PMO/DEV3/3/5-I (VoL I) dated 26.07.2023.</p> |
| 11 | Presentation by the Information and Communication Technology Agency on the report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the concept of "connected state", technologically innovated processes and identification of competent people are prominent. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>“Connected Government For Sri Lanka” to the Committee.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected to achieve the objectives of establishing an efficient government mechanism and a citizen-centered government service. • It is expected to achieve the basic objectives of Connected Government, Digital Economy and Digital Capabilities, within the strategic measure called "National Digital Transformation Strategy 2030" which has been started according to the instructions of the Honorable President, with the support of the World Bank. • That this strategic plan is expected to be prepared and completed by August 2023, and further to get it approved by the cabinet of Ministers and to submit to Parliament by November. |
| 12 | <p>Disclosures relating to the Department of Registrar of Companies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the year 2018, the company registrar department will provide its services through the online platform only. • Even though it has been discussed to join with the Inland Revenue Department through the online system since the year 2018, it has not been successful. • According to the Department of Registrar of Companies, there are |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>also problems when connecting with the Labor Department online.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee recommended that the above problems be presented to the committee headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister, in order to get them resolved.</p> |
| 13 | Implementation of projects like e-population project, e-land project by Registrar General’s Department | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the necessary measures have been taken for the implementation of the projects. • Lack of necessary technical expertise and lack of infrastructure have been identified as obstacles to the implementation of the e-Population project. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>In particular, the Committee pointed out the importance of involving the Department of Census and Statistics in the e-Population Project system.</p> |
| 14 | The progress of the technical committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Information and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AO of the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that the main problem related to the technical feasibility of the RAMIS 2.0 system is the |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Communication Technology Agency to examine the RAMIS computer system.</p> | <p>absence of a formal communication system between the stakeholders involved in this system.</p> <p><u>Observations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee observed that the Inland Revenue Department did not have the human resources, required to maintain the system once the ownership of the RAMIS system is acquired. • AO of the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that IT officers, recruited under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, can be assigned or as an alternative method, the maintenance can be formally handed over to a software company, established in the country through Service Level Agreements . <p>Furthermore, the AO of the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that the final report including the maintenance process of the RAMIS 2.0 system will be submitted to the committee in the near future.</p> |

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| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| <p align="center">Performance Evaluation of on Management of the Archeological Heritage of Sri Lanka</p> <p align="center">Date of Examination : 24 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <p>❖ Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Department of Archaeology, Department of National Museums, Department of National Archives, Attorney General's Department, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, Sri Lanka Police Department, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, National Physical Planning Department, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology</p> | | |
| <p>01.</p> | <p><u>Revision of National Archeology Policy based on current needs.</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Director General of Archeology, who mentioned the need to update the National Archeology Policy, submitted a report to the Hon. President containing the summary of the work done in this regard. • That the Hon. President informed him to submit him a draft within three weeks regarding the areas that are expected to be revised in the national policy. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Director General of Archeology to summon the institutions mentioned in the National</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Policy and get their opinions and suggestions regarding the matters related to the revision of the national policy on Archeology, which is to be submitted to the President.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023, dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Getting life insurance for the Divers</u></p> | <p>Eventhough, diving services for tourists have been started by now, failed to get life insurance.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to expedite the activities related to obtaining life insurance for the divers.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs has submitted a report to the Committee on the said matter by the letter No.</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023. |
| 03. | <u>Developing integration among coastal and ocean related institutions</u> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to formulate legal policies and set up necessary committees/appropriate mechanisms to bring about the coordination among the institutions dealing with coasts and ocean.</p> |
| 04. | <u>Gazetting aquatic (marine) antiquities</u> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to gazette the 113 marine artifacts currently identified , before December 1st of 2023 and to provide a report containing the action plan in that regard by July 28th of 2023.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 05 | <p><u>Initiation of tourist diving services at marine archaeological sites</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority to nominate places where services can be provided for diving activities related to marine archeological sites around Sri Lanka, and to prepare a program to develop the infrastructure at those places, attracting tourists.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>Attachment of Archeology Graduates in public Service to Department of Archaeology</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to submit a report regarding the approval of the relevant policies by the Cabinet of Ministers and the amendment of the recruitment procedure to the Committee by July 28th of 2023.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 07 | <p><u>Establishing a joint mechanism to collect the archaeological data, information and other relevant matters of those institutions by making proper coordination with the relevant councils/ committees established in the Archaeological Advisory Council and other institutions related to archeology and to act according to them.</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to formulate a system to incorporate the councils/committees established in the institutions related to archeology into an integrated mechanism, in consultation with the concerned minister, and to provide a complete report within one month that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the mechanism ; and • the composition of those councils/committees, their role, the current members and the dates of their appointment and their their conveners. <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Culture affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| 08 | <p><u>Obtaining a report on recommended World Heritage sites.</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Director General of Archeology to provide a report including a draft plan to the Committee before July 28, 2023, with the list of places that have been decided to be proposed to UNESCO to</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>be designated as World Heritage Sites and the possible dates to provide such draft.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| 09 | <p><u>Mapping archaeological sites in the country and putting them on the website</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Director General of Archeology to submit a report to the Committee by August 25, 2023, which includes an action plan for mapping all the archaeological sites in the country and including them on the website after consulting the minister in charge and other relevant parties.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| 10 | <p><u>Managing /supervising archaeological excavations and conservations.</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to enter</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>the related information into a data system to manage/ supervise the archaeological excavations in the country.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| 11 | <p><u>Preservation of Atthanagalu Ferry</u></p> <p>The Director General of Archeology has stated that the ferry has decayed to the point where it is impossible to preserve it. The director of the post-graduate institute of archeology said that he will provide the necessary expertise and support to the department of archeology for this purpose.</p> | <p><u>Observations</u></p> <p>The committee observed that although an amount of Rs. 17 lakhs has been spent for this purpose, it has been destroyed to the extent that it cannot be preserved.</p> <p>The Committee directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, to submit a report on the Atthanagalu Ferry conservation measures to the Committee before July 28, 2023.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No.</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023. |
| 12. | <u>Use of modern technical equipment to verify the identity of archaeological objects</u> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Director General of Archeology to make an immediate arrangement for the use of modern technical equipment to ensure the identity of the archaeological objects.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the said matter to the Committee by the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.</p> |
| <p>Department of Government Information</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 25 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Mass Media ❖ Government Information Department | | |
| 01 | That the Department of Government Information is an institution that has shown minimal performance in the past years as per the online | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee Directed the Chief Accounts Officer (CAO)/Accounting</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | questionnaire of the Committee on Government Accounts and that the lack of an internal audit unit in the department is also a reason for this. | Officer (AO) to rectify this situation immediately. |
| 02 | Main Functions of Government Information Department. | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>(i) The Committee directed CAO/AO to provide a detailed report to the Committee on the action plan and current progress of the 18 main tasks identified as the objectives of the Government Information Department before July 7, 2023.</p> <p>The above report was submitted by the Ministry of Media Secretary's letter no. MMI/7/1, dated 12.09.2023.</p> <p>(ii) In particular, the committee emphasized that a discussion should be held and a methodical program should be held by contacting the ambassadors of the embassies through the online system regarding the provision of local information to foreign countries and foreign information to the people of this country through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also, the Committee</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>directed the CAO/AO to submit a report containing the progress of the discussed matters to the Committee before July 7, 2023.</p> <p>Above report was submitted by Ministry of Media Secretary's letter No. MMI/7/1, dated 12.09.2023.</p> |
| 03 | <p><u>Progress on implementation of the directions, issued by the Public Accounts Committee of a previous government, held on November 09, 2010.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 05 - Although it was ordered that the performance report should be submitted before the end of the year 2010, the performance report of the year 2009 and the performance reports of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 have not been submitted yet.</p> | <p>CAO stated that the 2019, 2020 and 2021 performance reports are to be approved and printed by the Auditor General, and the 2022 report is in the draft stage.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Progress on implementation of the directions, issued by the Public Accounts Committee of a previous government, held on November 09, 2010.</u></p> | <p>CAO stated that request has been made for an internal auditor from the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministerial Audit and Management Committee will discuss about the Government Information Department.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p><u>Directive No. 06</u> - the internal auditor of the postal department has been appointed as the department's internal auditor from 04.03.2023 and a government audit unit has also been established as per the order to establish a government audit division and an internal audit division within the government informatuion department,</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Currently, the department's audit work should be covered by the Ministry's Internal Auditor and Accountant. •The need to establish an internal audit unit in the Government Information Department. •That audit and management committees should be held properly. •The committee also emphasized that the Ministry of Finance should provide proper guidance on conducting internal audit, to the institutions that do not have such internal audit units. |
| <p>05</p> | <p><u>Progress on implementation of the directions, issued by the Public Accounts Committee of a previous government, held on November 09, 2010.</u></p> <p><u>Direction No. 11(i)</u> - The Debrī laboratory machinery and related machines imported from France in 1999 by the Government Information Department, without a feasibility study, under a loan amount of 108 million rupees,</p> | <p>CAO stated that, as the related loan amount is being paid from the treasury currently, no instructions have been given to dispose of it and it has not been possible to sell it even for iron as it is made of cheenachatti.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed CAO/AO to discuss with the concerned embassy whether there is any possibility of concession/write-off of the loan taken for the purchase as this machine is unusable, and to discuss with the Ministry of Finance about the misuse</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>have not been used since 2005, and since the technology of those machines is outdated, the Ministry of Finance has been asked to take appropriate action or to dispose of them.</p> | <p>of the machine and to submit a detailed report to the committee regarding this within 1 week.</p> <p>A copy of the letter of the Secretary of the Ministry of Mass Media No. MMI/7/1 dated 13.06.2023 requesting the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance to give instructions on the misuse of the relevant machine has been submitted to the Committee. The Government Information Department has given a report stating that the order given by the Committee on Public Accounts is being implemented. Also, an inquiry has been made by the letter No. AE/FR/GEN dated 21.07.2023 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to clarify a number of matters before giving instructions related to the misuse of this machine.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>Audit reports of the years 2019, 2020, 2021.</u></p> <p>Eventhough, the requirement of the department was identified as 42 computers, on 18th February of 2021, the quotations for the same were made on 2 occasions.</p> | <p>Non-adoption of a proper procurement plan in this regard, was criticised by the committee.</p> |

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| | <p>Accordingly, purchases were made for 3 computers on 31st of May 2021, and for 39 computers on 25th of August 2021 as per the bids and Rs.4,189,600 overpayment was made for 11 computers due to the price increase and as the purchase was not made at once,</p> | |
| 07 | <p><u>Action plan and its progress</u></p> <p>In the year 2022 action plan, 51 activities had not been accomplished and 13 activities showed physical progress of less than 50% . 11 activities exceeded the estimated targets, i.e. between 149% and 1107% showed poor planning. In addition, 34 activities in 2020 and 6 activities in 2019, could not be completed. In addition, in the preparation of this action plan, due to the fact that the action plan was not prepared to cover the main tasks, its objectives had been overlooked.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed CAO /AO that the action plan should be prepared in due time.</p> |
| 08 | <p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>Out of the entire staff of 344 members, duties had been assigned to 27 members only.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to give duty lists to all the members of the staff and to submit a report</p> |

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| | | <p>regarding the same to the Committee within 02 weeks.</p> <p>A detailed report was submitted regarding this on 02.06.2023 with Ref. No. 01/02/01-1B.</p> |
| <p>Department of Samurdhi Development</p> <p><i>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020, 2021, Current Performance and Progress of the recommendations and directives given in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 25.04.2023)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 26 May 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment ❖ Department of Samurdhi Development | | |
| 01 | <p><u>Issues relating to the process of absorption of the staff that were serving at Sri Lanka Samurdhi Authority when converting Sri Lanka Samurdhi Authority into a Department.</u></p> <p>Absorption of the staff, which had been being carried out under several categorizations, had not been fully completed. The Committee enquired as to why payment of compensation to the employees who had left</p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit the following reports to Committee before 06.07.2023.</p> <p>i. A report giving reasons as to why payment of compensation to each officer out of those who belong to the category of officers who had left the service having received compensation at the time when Sri Lanka Samurdhi Authority was converted into a Department has</p> |

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| | <p>the service under the absorption process had not been completed, and as to why some of the employees, who were subjected to the absorption process and have been retired at present have not been paid their pension so far.</p> | <p>not begun or has not been completed so far and details of the present situation of payment of compensation.</p> <p>ii. A report giving information about the officers who belong to the category of officers who are entitled to a pension from the date on which the officer was appointed to the Authority and have retired at present, but are not receiving the pension.</p> <p>iii. A report that is prepared based on a categorization of officers who are entitled to a pension from the date on which the officer was appointed to the Authority and who are due to retire from service during year 2023.</p> <p>iv. A detailed report that has been prepared categorizing the issues based on the nature of the issue relating to the appointment of officers who are entitled to a pension from the effective date of the gazette notification dated 03 January 2024.</p> <p>The report containing the relevant information has been submitted to</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>the Committee through the later bearing reference SMS/ACC/01/44 dated 05.07.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that absorption of the officers who contribute to the EPF has not been completed yet, and that the scheme of recruitment and promotion of those officers has been referred to the Management Services Department for approval.</p> |
| 02 | <p><u>Placement of Samurdhi Managers in two different salary scales</u></p> <p>It was discovered at the Committee that this issue has arisen as the officers who joined the Authority in 2005 do not get the opportunity after their absorption process to sit the promotion examination that the officers should sit after a period of 10 years of service.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although approval had been granted by the Department of Management Services to create new positions of MN-07 level with the view to giving promotions to 161 Samurdhi Managers and 44 Audit Managers who have lost promotion opportunities due to the establishment of the Department, the said 161 positions and the 44 positions had been nullified when approving a new cadre by the Department of Management Services on 05.07.2019. |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee before 06.07.2024 a report giving details of the 161 Samurdhi Managers, who are placed in MN-4 salary scale and of whom promotion to MN-07 salary scale was rejected by the Cabinet Paper No. 007/2012/617/2020 dated 04.03.2020.</p> <p>The report containing the relevant information was submitted to the Committee through the dated 05.07.2023 bearing reference SMS/ACC/01/44 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</p> |
| <p>03</p> | <p><u>Computerizing the Samurdhi Banks system</u></p> <p>Plan of work presented by the Department of Samurdhi Development for computerizing all the Samurdhi banks as per the directive issued by the Committee on Public Accounts at its meeting held on 25.04.2023.</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is the possibility of carrying out automated transactions in all the Samurdhi banks established in the Districts of Kalutara, Anuradhapura, Baticaloa, Killinochchi, Mannar, Jaffna and Mullaitivu. • That all the deposit accounts in 35 banks are handled completely |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>through the computer system at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That implementation of the programme to computerize the Samurdhi banks in the other districts is underway in different phases, and that the lack of adequate staff in the Samurdhi banks had delayed the completion of this programme. <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The CAO/AO was directed to submit to the Committee before 15.09.2023 a report on the progress of the implementation of the action plan that has been submitted to the Committee regarding computerization of the Samurdhi banks.</p> <p>It has been reported to the Committee through the letter dated 05.07.2024 bearing reference SMS/ACC/01/44 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment that a progress report that is prepared in the form of Google Sheet for measuring the progress of computerizing the Samurdhi banks is updated by the officers who are in charge of the subject of microfinance in each district and</p> |

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| | | <p>that its progress is monitored monthly.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Receiving a report regarding an alleged misappropriation of funds in the Damana Divisional Secretary's Division in distributing fishing nets for Samurdhi recipients.</u></p> <p>Attention of the Committee was directed towards the present situation of taking disciplinary action in connection with this incident.</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That an investigation has been carried out into this incident as per the directive issued at the meeting held on 25.04.2024. • That the relevant sections have been instructed to take disciplinary action. • That action would be taken in future to refer to the relevant ministry the observation notes of this investigation for the purpose of taking action regarding the officials of the Divisional Secretariat. • It was stated by the Committee that action would be taken by the Committee to inform the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government in writing requesting that an investigation be carried out into this incident by the said ministry. <p>The letter dated 02.06.2023 bearing reference PAC/9/4/2003 with regard</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>to this matter was sent to the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government by the Secretary of the Committee on Public Accounts, and the Committee has been informed in response through the letter of the Secretary to the said Ministry dated 07.08.2023 bearing reference HAF/INV/22/2023-11(09) that a report would be sent to the Committee in that regard once the preliminary inquiry into this incident has been completed.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to take appropriate disciplinary action against the officers of the Department of Samurdhi Development, if any, who are responsible for the aforesaid incident, and to send a report on the same to the Committee before 06.07.2023.</p> <p>The report containing the relevant information has been sent to the Committee through the letter dated 05.07.2023 bearing reference SMS/ACC/01/44 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>05</p> | <p><u>Samurdhi Banks not being subjected to the audit of the Auditor General</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to refer to the Auditor General through the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment the letter containing the observations of the Attorney General in this regard, which was presented at this meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The said letter has been referred along with the letter No. DSD/HO/10/IA/COPA-iii of the Director General of the Department of Samurdhi Development dated 13.06.2023.</p> |
| <p>06</p> | <p><u>Organizing workshops</u></p> <p>Information has been received that various workshops have been organized spending huge amounts of money on matters such as computerization of the Samurdhi bank system.</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That these workshops are conducted on behalf of the governing body with the objectives of training the staff of the Samurdhi Community based banks and raising awareness among the public. • That funds are allocated for these training programmes out of a fund that has been established with the income received from the bank subject to the approval of the |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p style="text-align: center;">governing body for the relevant area.</p> <p><u>Observations / Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee also emphasized at this point that the existing mechanisms must be implemented more effectively for the betterment of the Samurdhi recipients.</p> |
| <p>Colombo Municipal Council</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 06 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government ❖ Western Province Provincial Council ❖ Colombo Municipal Council | | |
| 01 | <p><u>Meetings of the Audit and Management Committee</u></p> | <p>The Committee observed that one Audit and Management Committee meeting had been held in each of the years 2020 and 2021, four meetings had been held in 2022, and only one meeting had been held in 2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>The AO stated that one meeting of the audit and management committee was held in the first quarter of year 2023, and that the meeting for the second quarter has been scheduled for June 2023</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized that the meetings of the audit and management committee that have been scheduled for the year should necessarily be called, and that the Ministry of Local Government of the Western Province Provincial Council should monitor conducting of those meetings.</p> |
| 02 | <u>Action Plan</u> | <p>The AO stated that —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Plan for year 2020 had not been prepared, • Approval of the Council was not granted for the Action Plan for year 2021 as the Action plan had not been presented in all the three languages, and • The Action Plan was approved by the Council in the last quarter of 2021. |

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| | | <p>The Committee observed that the Action Plans for years 2022 and 2023 have been prepared and the approval of the Council has been granted for the same.</p> |
| 03 | <p><u>Progress in responding to audit queries</u></p> | <p>The AO stated that answers were provided to all 25 audit queries received in year 2020 and to 26 of the 32 audit queries received in 2021, and answers have been provided by now to 8 of the 19 audit queries for which answers had not been provided out of the audit queries received in 2020, and that it is expected to provide answers promptly to all the audit queries that will be issued in future.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the AO to take action to provide answers promptly and continuously to the audit queries.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Outstanding revenue</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AO stated before the Committee that, out of the rates income of Rs. 4,316.8 million that was overdue as at 31.12.2022, there were 5,400 property owners who had defaulted payment of over Rs. 100,000/- and the value of the defaulted amount is Rs. 1,800 |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>million, and that action has been taken to collect a sum of Rs. 1,025 million out of the said overdue rates income, and finally, action is being taken to attach the property of those who are not paying the overdue rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AO further stated that, as the Colombo Municipal Council does not have an adequate number of Revenue Inspectors, a request has been made to the Department of Management Services to provide 17 Development Officers to be deployed for the purpose of revenue collection. • The AO of the Department of Management Services stated that such a request had not been received, and that all the provincial councils were instructed to balance within the province the requirements for Development Officers, if any, and to submit requests for filling vacancies existing in the said positions. <p>The CAO pointed out that, for all the provinces, the carder review had been conducted last in year 2013, and</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | therefore, there is the need to conduct a carder review again. |
| 05 | The inability to collect the outstanding rates of over Rs. 10.0 million from the 24 properties, which is contained in the outstanding rates income of Rs. 4,316.8 million in year 2022, seems to exist continuously. | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>i. The Committee directed the AO to make an enquiry from the CEB or from the NWSDB or from any other relevant institute and to find out information about the persons who have obtained power supply and water supply under the assessment numbers for the said 24 properties.</p> <p>Information relating to this has been submitted to the Committee through the letter number Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) dated 06.07.2023 of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> <p>ii. The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee before 06 July 2023 a report detailing the steps / recommendations for collecting all the outstanding taxes through a collaboration between the Secretary to the Ministry of Local Government and the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>Commissioner of Local Government.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |
| 06 | <p>Action had not been taken even by 31.12.2020 in terms of Article 259 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance to write the certificates of sale for 193 properties relating to outstanding rates of Rs. 214,628,001 of which the rates had been outstanding from 2003 to 2016, due to the inability of finding information about the owners of such property and the deeds and plans for which ownership was claimed last.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee observed that assessment numbers had been issued in an improper manner and assessment numbers have been issued even for unauthorized constructions. The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee before 06 July 2023 a report including the names of the officials who have approved the payment of outstanding amounts of rates and who have issued assessment numbers to such constructions, and details of the properties for which assessment numbers have been issued in that manner.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the</p> |

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| | | Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council. |
| 07 | <p>An agreement had been entered into with a private company to fix parking metres for parking of vehicles in a selected area, but action had been taken to terminate the said agreement on 07.04.2021 as the agreed rental had not been paid properly by that company since 2016, and no action had been taken to collect the rentals amounting to Rs. 101.77 million that was outstanding from the said company as at 31.12.2021.</p> | <p>The AO stated that judicial measures have been initiated to collect the outstanding rentals and that it is expected to recommence the said Parking Metres Project in the near future.</p> |
| 08 | <p>Although the legal ownership of the property in extent of 154.43 perches located at No. 43, Barnes Place, Cinnamon Gardens, has been acquired by the Council by registering the certificate of purchase at the Land Registry, Colombo, on 01.10.1974 in terms of Section 263 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance as the owner of the property had not paid the outstanding amount of rates within a period of one year, action had not been taken to</p> | <p>The AO stated that the determination of the Court of Appeal was issued in 2016 determining that the said acquisition was legal, and that the occupant of the property has made an appeal to the Supreme Court against that determination. He further stated that the case filed at the Magistrate's Court by the Council for acquiring the possession of the land has been stayed until the determination of the Supreme Court is issued.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | acquire the possession of the land to the Municipal Council even by 31.12.2021. | |
| 09 | <p>Although it has been informed that there are 168 lands that belong to the Municipal Council according to the register of lands, neither information about how the ownership of those lands were transferred to the Municipal Council nor information that is required to verify that those lands belong to the Municipal Council had been submitted, and although it had been discovered that there are unauthorized settlers in 06 of those lands, no formal action had been taken against that even by 31.12.2021.</p> | <p>The AO stated that, out of the 14 plots of lands for which there are no deeds, 10 plots of lands have been requested in the name of the Municipal Commissioner and details relating to them have been submitted to two divisional secretariats, and that action has been taken to prepare and submit the details relating to the 04 remaining plots of lands.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the AO to submit to the Committee a report giving details of the latest situation regarding those lands belonging to the Municipal Council on or before 06 July 2023.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 10 | <p>A land in extent of 50 perches from a land in Modara named Elie House, which belong to the Council, had been given on lease basis to an institute in July 1992, and the Committee observed that the remaining 60 perches of that land is being used by the same institution without any authority for that, but no action has been taken against the said unauthorized use of that land or against the unauthorized constructions.</p> | <p>The AO stated that —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially, an extent of 50 perches had been given to the said institution and later they had requested for further 60 perches, but the approval of the Council was granted to give only 20 perches to them; • It has been calculated through the survey plan executed by the Municipal Council that the total extent of lands under unauthorized use is 88.76 perches, and that action is being taken to acquire the remaining extent of land. <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the AO to submit to the Committee a detailed report containing information about those unauthorized constructions.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| 11 | <p>Construction of a two-storey building of an area of 6,000 sq. ft. in the land in extent of about 11 perches located in lot 48 of the plan of plot No. 02 land in the premises of the official residence of the Curator of the Borella Cemetery, which belongs to the Council and which is located in Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08, and running a funeral service in that building without obtaining a licence for that.</p> | <p>The AO stated that the case numbered 56/975 had been filed in the Magistrate's Court on 06.07.2021 to take over that building in terms of the Urban Development Authority Act.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the AO to take legal action against running a business in that unauthorized building as well, and to submit to the Committee a report on or before 06 July 2023 including details of the said unauthorized constructions and the process of taking over the said constructions to the Municipal Council.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Although there are 378 hotels, lodges and restaurants registered with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority within the area of the Colombo Municipal Council as per the register of the Sri Lanka Tourism</p> | <p>The AO stated that, out of the 378 institutions, 200 institutions have been identified and 165 of them have obtained licences. It was revealed before the Committee that cases have been filed against 27 institutions that do not pay licence fees, and out of the</p> |

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| | <p>Development Authority, only 93 of them had been identified, and action had not been taken to charge the licence fees from 18 of those institutions, and no action had been taken to find out whether the remaining 275 institutions are in operation or have been closed down.</p> | <p>378 institutions, a licence is not required for some of the institutions.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the AO to submit to the Committee a report including details of the hotels, lodges and restaurant of which no action had been taken as stated above to charge the licence fees or to verify whether they are operational or whether they have been closed down.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Although 04 applications for display boards had been rejected by the committee as those display boards were not in conformity with the scale set out in Section 9 of the Bylaw on Display Boards No. 1713/10 dated 05.07.2011, those boards had been displayed without obtaining approval at the locations specified in the application forms.</p> | <p>The AO further stated before the Committee —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That an income of Rs. 45 million is expected from the display of display boards in year 2023. • That action will be taken as per the survey that has been initiated at present covering the entire City of Colombo to generate income by approving the display boards that |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>can be approved and to remove the unauthorized display boards.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee recommended that it should be examined as to whether the aforesaid estimated assessments are realistic and whether the said income will cover all the display boards. Further, the Committee emphasized the need to maintain a database on display boards, and directed the AO to submit a report in this regard to the Committee.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |
| 14 | <p>It was observed that the wastewater pump house in Slave Island that had been constructed at a cost of Rs. 481.62 million under the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project and had been handed over to the Colombo Municipal Council on 30.11.2021 was defunct.</p> | <p>The Committee observed that —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial loan that was required for this project was obtained from the Asian Development Bank in 2010; • The value of all the projects under this is US\$ 260 million. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a Policy Assistant Team consisting of officials from the Colombo Municipal Council, Ministry of Local Government and the Provincial Council of the Western Province had been appointed since 2010 in order to promptly resolve the issues that arise in implementing the project and a sum of Rs. 41.24 million had been paid to the members of that team as allowances as at 31.12.2021, it had not been verified that any assistance had been received from them to make the project successful. • Main problem in the implementation of this project is the lack of inter-connections between the institutions involved in the projects <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee a report on the present situation of this project within two weeks. The Committee further directed the CAO/AO to submit to the Committee before 15 June 2023 a list of names of all the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>institutions that are connected to this project and the role of each of those institutions in relation to this project.</p> <p>Furthermore, the committee announced that the secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and all officials related to this project will be called to the committee to investigate this project on June 21, 2023.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |
| 15 | <p>The project period of the Wastewater Purification Plant Project, of which the construction work was commenced under the Asian Development Bank loan facility, is due to end on 30 June 2023, but the construction work of the purification plant has been abandoned.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO to submit a report on the present situation of this project within 02 weeks.</p> <p>The said report has been submitted to the Committee through the letter dated 06.07.2023 bearing reference Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 16 | <p>Although a fee should be charged for the Colombo Municipal Council based on the measurements obtained monthly as per the agreement that has been entered into with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board in order to recover the cost by the Council under the Institutional Development Consultancy, which is a key component of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project, action had not been taken accordingly.</p> | <p>The AO stated that the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has been informed that the said fee should be charged, and that it is expected to take future action accordingly.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Fire Service Department of the Colombo Municipal Council</p> | <p>The AO stated that the Department of Management Services has been informed of the vacancies for fire fighters and mechanical fire fighters.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee recommended that, as the support of the Air Force would be needed in case a fire occurs in a building that is taller than 20 storeys, action should be taken to strengthen the coordination with the Air Force.</p> |
| 18 | <p>Whether the official residence of the Mayor of Colombo</p> | <p>The A.O. stated the official vehicles had been handed over after the term of</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>Municipal Council and the relevant vehicles have been handed over after the local government institutions are dissolved.</p> | <p>the Council expired on 19.03.2023 whereas requests had been made on two occasions (Till 16.04.2023 and subsequently till 05.05.2023) from the Governor of Western Province to use the official quarters until her private residence is renovated.</p> <p><u>Observations / Recommendations</u></p> <p>Since no notice has been made after 05.05.2023 and whereas the former Mayor is a Mayoral Candidate, the committee instructed the Municipal Commissioner to inform her about handing over of official quarters.</p> |
| <p>Department of Prisons</p> <p><i>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 09 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Justice ❖ Department of Prisons | | |
| 01 | <p><u>Preparing a new Act</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whereas recommendations have been made at the previous meeting of the Committee of Public Accounts held on 29th of March 2019 on preparing a new Prison Act that meet international standards |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>since the Act to establish Department of Prisons (the Prison Ordinance No 16 of 1877) is a 140 year old Act.</p> <p>Accordingly, the committee expressed its displeasure over the process stagnating at the draft level although a new Act that meets the international standards should have been introduced expeditiously.</p> <p>The C.A.O. stated that the remaining measures will be finalized as soon as possible after taking into consideration the views and suggestions made by local and international agencies with regard to the Prison Act.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>After taking into consideration the matters that were presented, the committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer / Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Reforms and Constitutional Reforms to submit a report that includes the time frame from the preparation of the new Prison Act to tabling it in the Parliament before 10th of July 2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the committee from the letter sent under the number MOJ/AC/37/11/2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Reforms and Constitutional Reforms dated 10.07.2023</p> |
| 02 | <u>Responding to audit queries</u> | <p>The Committee drew its attention on the delay that prevails when responding to the audit queries made by the Auditor General from the Department of Prisons. It was observed although replies for a audit query should be made within 21 days in terms of the Audit Act, it has taken more than three months to reply for certain audit queries.</p> |
| 03 | <u>Staff Vacancies</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved cadre of the Department of Prisons by 15th of May 2023 was 7872 officers whereas the actual number of officers was 6225. It was also noted that there 16 excessive officers for 04 positions whereas there are 1663 vacancies for 69 posts. • Number of administrative issues have surfaced due to not taking measures to fill posts of Commissioner of Prisons (SLAS – Grade I) and Additional Commissioner of Prisons (SLAS – |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Grade II, III) that have become vacant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee stated that since there are number of vacancies in the posts that are directly related to the worksites, industries and constructions in various parts of the country and comes under the purview of Department of Prison, the efficiency and the quality of the aforementioned projects has downgraded. <p>In reply, the C.A.O. said although requests have been made from the Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government in writing to fill the aforementioned vacancies, they are yet to be entertained.</p> <p><u>Directives/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>The C.A.O. was instructed to fill the existuing vacancies according to the approved cadre of the department whereas to take measures to increase the cadre for the essential posts if the current approved cadre is inadequate.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Shortage of equipment used to examine persons and goods</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is shortage of equipment available to examine persons and goods when entering the prisons. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No measure has been taken to repair the equipment that are out of order. <p>The C.A.O./ A.O. stated purchasing new equipment will be more advantageous when considering the money that will have to be spent to repair the equipment that are more than 10 years old.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The C.A.O./A.O. was instructed to prepare and finalize the figures / data regarding the technical equipment required by the entire Prison department in order to carry out the procurement activities as soon as the required funds are received.</p> |
| 05 | <u>Mobile phone jammer</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mobile phone jammer installed at Angunukolapellessa prison has disrupted the mobile phone services in the surrounding areas instead of within prison premises. • That this system was developed by the Signal Corp of the Army and they are upgrading it from time to time. • The C.A.O. / A.O. pointed out that in developed countries mobile phone jammers are used targeting a specific area whereas using this |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>technology for prisons has become difficult due to security issues.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee instructed the C.A.O. / A.O. to use the technology of jamming of mobile phone signals targeting a specific area with the assistance of the Army and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>The current status of the program to relocate Welikada prison</u></p> | <p>The Committee inquired about the current status of the program that was implemented to relocate Welikada prison at Horana.</p> <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. stated although developing of infrastructure facilities including planning and designing activities as well as internal roads, water supply and electricity and the environmental impact assessment report with regard to the aforesaid project have been completed by 30%, implementation of the aforementioned project has been temporarily suspended as instructed in the circular 03/2022 dated 26th of April 2022.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>07</p> | <p><u>Measures taken with regard to reduce the overcrowding in prisons</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are 26,791 inmates at present although the total inmate capacity of all the prisons is 11,765 • In certain prisons, the level of overcrowding is 300%, whereas the average level of overcrowding in prisons is as high as 269% • That out of 26,791 inmates 17,502 are remand prisoners whereas the number of sentenced prisoners 9,289 while majority of the remand prisoners are drug related suspects. • The C.A.O. / A.O. also informed that in addition there is a large group of persons who have been jailed for not being able to pay fines. <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. further disclosed that following measures have been taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructing temporary buildings in Prisons with the support of army. • Releasing inmates under Presidential Pardon <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. further added that in addition, attention has also been focused on implementing the concept of house arrest.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee instructed the C.A.O. / A.O. to submit a report on the inmates who have been kept in prison due to being unable to pay the fines and a breakdown of the fines they need to pay and to formulate legal provisions that will enable to send the inmates who are released under the Presidential pardon for community based correction.</p> <p>*Relevant report has not been submitted.</p> |
| 08 | <p><u>Being unable to take legal action due to the unavailability of the report of the government analyst</u></p> | <p>While pointing out that there is an issue with regard to granting bail to remand prisoners due to the non-receipt of reports of the government analyst the Committee inquired the reasons for the delay in the aforesaid reports.</p> <p>The government analyst pointed out that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the delays in issuance of government analyst reports have been reduced considerably at present • high demand for government analyst’s reports and shortage of |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>required officers have resulted this delay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of cases related to drug offences, which was 13,358 in year 2021 has gone up to 20,798 in year 2022 whereas more than 2500 cases related to drugs are referred to the Department of Government Analyst every month from August 2022 • according to the new Act, the death sentence will be imposed if the net quantity of heroin found in possession of a suspect is more than 5 grams whereas in order to examine the net quantity of heroin correctly a quantitative analysis needs to be carried out on the samples of which, the net weight is more than 5 grams for which, it takes considerable period of time. • Total number of employees of the Department of Government Analyst is 350 • That there are 113 vacancies • Out of them there are 25 vacancies of officers in the scientific service who prepare government analyst reports. • That measures were taken to obtain the service of 15 officers in the scientific service for a 30 month |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>period under the aid received from the United Nations Development Program since the required financial allocations were not received to fill the aforesaid vacancies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the equipment, chemicals, softwares required for the tests could not be purchased for 08 months due to the forex crisis experienced by the country. • The issues have been addressed to a certain extent. <p>The Government Analyst pointed out that these factors have resulted delays in analyst reports.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>While pointing out that suspects are kept in remand prison for a longer period of time due to the delays in government analyst reports the Committee instructed the C.A.O. of the Ministry of Justice to obtain the required allocations after holding discussions with the treasury to fill the relevant vacancies of the Department of Government Analyst by preparing suitable salary scales since this is an essential matter.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>09</p> | <p><u>The Department not having a scientific method to confirm that inmates who are released from prison being incarcerated again</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That by obtaining fingerprints the Police gets confirmation on whether the suspects had been imprisoned earlier as well. • That the preliminary activities with regard to setting up an Information Management System of the Department of Prison, that would allow to obtain the information from the prisons itself instead of obtaining fingerprints by the Police, has been finalized. • The C.A.O. / A.O. stated that the aforesaid system remains inactive due to lack of funds to purchase digital equipment and 400 computers as well as not having trained officers required for the purpose. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>While emphasizing that it is essential to properly maintain the Information Management System of the Department of Prison the Committee instructed the C.A.O. to look into the possibility of going for alternative measures including renting the equipment required if it is difficult to purchase them.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 10 | <p><u>Providing substandard food to inmates</u></p> | <p>After focusing attention on the Department of Prison spending Rs.2,256 million in year 2022 to purchase raw and dry food as well as regarding the observations made by the Auditor General that disclosed that substandard food is provided to inmates subsequent to approving a tender that had absurd prices emphasized that a proper procurement program needs to be prepared for the purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The C.A.O./A.O. stated that suppliers to provide food to inmates are selected by a Standing Procurement Committee and that the tenders are called annually, and • That food are examined from time to time and are rejected when it is revealed they are substandard. <p>The Auditor General produced a sample of substandard tea leaves before the Committee obtained from the prisons.</p> <p>The C.A.O. of the Ministry of Justice said measures will be taken against the tenderers that had provided substandard food whereas a methodology will be prepared to look</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>into the matter to prevent such incidents in the future.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized that it is the responsibility of both the Ministry of Justice as well as the Department of Prison to investigate such incidents in addition to the inquiries carried out by the Auditor General. It also pointed out the need of preparing a proper mechanism for the purpose.</p> |
| 11 | <p><u>Payments being made to the Medical Board</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee observed that the only source to obtain information with regard to arrivals and departures of the doctors who serve in the prison hospital is the records maintained at the entry points of the prison, • That according to the aforesaid records, the doctors of the prison hospital had served 30% less than of the service period that they should have served in a period of one month, • That based on the information with regard to arrivals and the departures of the medical officers mentioned in the duty diary, payments have been made to the medical officers |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>for the period they have not reported for duty considering them as the period they have reported for duty,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That arrival and the departure times of the medical officers marked in the records at the entry points have been altered after they were examined by the audit officers. <p>Commenting on the matter the C.A.O./ A.O. stated an internal inquiry is being carried out regarding the aforesaid incident after it was informed to the Director General of Health.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to examine the marking of attendance and departure as well as the payments made based on them and to submit a report before the 10th of July 2023</p> <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the Committee from the letter MOJ/AC/37/11/2023 sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms dated 07.10.2023</p> <p>Therefore, it has been identified that arrival and departure records of the</p> |

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| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>doctor of Kegalle prison have been altered and was informed that an inquiry had been held regarding the matter. According to the investigation officers who were on duty at the respective entry point had stated that they had recorded the time properly and it had been altered subsequently. The report also states that they have been warned over the irresponsible behavior and the inquiry officers have recommended to take disciplinary action against the relevant officers in terms of the first schedule of the Establishment Code.</p> |
| <p>12</p> | <p><u>Implementing the recommendations mentioned in the special audit report on “the process to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates by providing safety and protection” issued by the Auditor General</u></p> | <p>The C.A.O./ A.O. said majority of the recommendations mentioned in the aforementioned audit report have been implemented. Matters mentioned below were also taken up for discussion by the Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Releasing the prisoners who suffer from chronic diseases and are above 60 years of age. • Recommending dedicated food for the inmates of Boossa prison. • Relaxing the sentence period of the inmates who are under long term prison terms. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the wages paid for inmates. • Deploying prisoners for outside projects <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. said matters in relation to recommending dedicated food for majority of inmates of the Boossa camp will be included in the report that has been ordered to be submitted to the Committee on Public by 10th July 2023.</p> <p>The Committee also emphasized the need to separate pregnant women and mothers with children who have been imprisoned as well as the aforesaid children from other inmates.</p> <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated although such mothers and children have been kept separated from other inmates, the facilities required by them are only available at Welikada, Dumbara and Angunukolapelessa prisons.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the C.A.O./A.O. of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to submit views and suggestions regarding the recommendations and conclusions of the aforesaid special audit report as well as the action plan, if the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>recommendations are expected to be implemented, before the 25th of October 2023.</p> <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the Committee from the letter MOJ/AC/37/11-1/2023 sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms dated 25.10.2023</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Preparing a mechanism to motivate prison officials</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee pointed out that although the special audit report has recommended preparing a mechanism to motivate prison officials, who carry out their duties under tremendous pressure, a measure is yet to be taken in this regard. • The C.A.O. / A.O. stated that it is essential to prepare a mechanism to serve the purpose, • That large number of persons have vacated their positions and another group has gone abroad, • The salaries of the prison officers are increased with parallel to the Police department, • Once the prison officers report for duty, it is difficult to mention a specific time of termination of duty depending on the nature of job. |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| <p>Debt Conciliation Board</p> <p><i>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 09 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Justice ❖ Department of Debt Conciliation Board | | |
| 01 | <p><u>Public being unaware of the functions of department</u></p> <p>While emphasizing that the public are less informed about the functions of the aforesaid department, that has been established with the objective of carrying out services immensely beneficial for the people, the Committee inquired about the measures taken to educate the public on the role of the department.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms stated although the aforesaid department was established in 1941, the people living in remote areas had less knowledge about the institution since its functions centered around Colombo Office till year 2021/2022, ● That various measures have been implemented to educate the public after regional offices were established in Kurunegala, Gampaha, Galle and Colombo in the years 2021/2022, ● That the ministry officials are educating the public through various media institutions as well as social media networks and via the district development committees. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That funds are received from foreign projects for the aforesaid promotional activities. <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educating the public through Grama Niladhari Officers and Samurdhi Development Officers• Introducing a proper mechanism to educate the public by preparing a model debt conciliation request form and by providing an instruction leaflet that include all the necessary information including debt relief that can be obtained and telephone numbers of each regional office.• Conducting mobile services after educating the public on the relief that can be obtained from the Debt Conciliation Board by the debtors who had obtained loans in an improper manner instead of state banks / financial institutions and regarding the application that needs to be submitted.• Preparing a mechanism to forward the debt relief applications with the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary after collecting them |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>through the District Secretariats/ Divisional Secretariats</p> <p><u>Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to submit a report before 10th of July 2023 on the measures that will be taken to educate the public with the assistance of Divisional Secretariats and through the Grama Niladhari Officers as well as the Samurdhi Development Officers on the services offered to the people from the Debt Conciliation Board.</p> <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the Committee from the letter MOJ/AC/37/11/2023 sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms dated 10.07.2023</p> |
| 02 | <p><u>Establishing regional offices and obtaining approval for the required cadre</u></p> | <p>The Committee stated that it is regrettable to note that people in distant areas such as Jaffna and Moneragala have to come to Colombo office to obtain the services of the department since only 05 offices are functioning covering the entire island even when 80 years have passed since the establishment of the aforesaid department.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Directives/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish branches of the Debt Conciliation Board covering all 25 districts. • establish regional offices covering all nine provinces as an initial step to set up regional offices. (For the remaining 6 provinces in addition to the existing 3 provincial offices) • taking measures to obtain approval for the required cadre of each regional office. • to submit a report on the measures taken to establish new offices at regional level and to obtain approval for the cadre required for the regional offices before the 10th of July 2023. <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the Committee from the letter MOJ/AC/37/11/2023 sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms dated 10.07.2023</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><i>The aforementioned report discloses that it is intended to establish two new offices covering Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces and letters seeking approval for the posts comes under financial regulation no. 71 have been sent to the Department of Management Services to recruit the staff required.</i></p> |
| 03 | <p><u>Lapses of the Department observed by the Auditor General</u></p> <p>The Committee said it has observed that records of the department are not properly maintained. It also focused attention on not including establishment of branch boards, which is a task entrusted from the Debt Conciliation Ordinance No. 39 of 1941, in the action plan for the years 2021/2022.</p> | <p>While admitting that certain lapses have taken place from the department the C.A.O. pointed out non-preparation of service ordinance, action plan and not identifying sustainable development objectives have resulted the Department of Debt Conciliation Board recording less marks at the web based financial performance evaluation program conducted by the Committee on Public Accounts and added that measures have been taken to address them.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Progress of entertaining applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the number of applicatios not entertained records a higher percentage | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that it takes some time to get certain creditors to agree for arbitration, even so, her institution settle the issues within a short period in comparison to courts. The C.A.O./A.O. said even though the two parties had agreed for arbitration,</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>when comparing the total number of applications received and the number of applications that were entertained during the period of four years from 2019 to 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the number of applications received in year 2019 was 1237 while the number of applications that was entertained was 416. • That the number of applications not entertained was 66% of the total number of applications. • The respective figure was 82% in year 2020, while it was 84% in year 2021 and 57% in year 2022. | <p>the relevant file was not closed until the money was paid, whereas, considering them as unresolved applications, it has been considered as an increase in the number of remaining applications.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee urged,</p> <p>(i) To maintain separate records as number of applications received, entertained, payments were made and remaining when feeding data in order to prevent the aforesaid situation,</p> <p>(ii) And to set up regional offices to entertain applications received at divisional level.</p> |
| <p>05</p> | <p><u>Not marking the arrival and departure of the members of Debt Conciliation Board and the payment of combined allowance</u></p> <p>The Committee focused its attention on not having a</p> | <p>The Auditor General pointed out,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it has been clearly mentioned in the the Debt Conciliation Ordinance that the officers of the Debt Conciliation Board do not fall to the category of public servants. • That although the officers do not mark the time they sign on the sign |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>proper signature sheet to mark the arrival and departure of the members of the Debt Conciliation Board and marking only the date and signature without mentioning the time. The Committee pointed out although under section 12 of the Public Administration Circular 6/2006 and from the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No. 1689/18 dated 11th of January 2011 approval has been granted to pay a consolidated allowance of Rs.500/-, in terms of paragraph 4.4 of the Chapter XIV of the Establishment Code, in order to claim the combined allowance one should have worked more than 6 hours.</p> | <p>sheets whereas the rule regarding the time is not applicable for the officers of the Debt Conciliation Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the audit query in this regard is made based on the existing legal provision that 6 hours of service must be completed in order to claim the combined allowance. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Accounting Officer of the Debt Conciliation Board to reach a solution after holding further discussions with the Auditor General regarding the aforesaid matter.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>Lack of awareness of the Police regarding the role and powers of the Debt Conciliation Board</u></p> | <p>The Committee stated that the conduct of the Police officers when there is a conflict between two parties regarding a matter that has already been referred to the Debt Conciliation Board indicates that the Police also do not have a clear understanding about the role of the Debt Conciliation Board. The Committee instructed the C.A.O. of the Ministry of Justice to inform the Inspector General of Police that</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | Committee on Public Accounts has instructed him to educate all the Officers in Charge of Police stations that the role of the Debt Conciliation Board is similar to cour procedure. |
| 07 | <u>Updating tenancy agreements and implementing sustainable development objectives</u> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the C.A.O. /A.O. to update the tenancy agreements of the buildings where the offices of the Debt Conciliation Board are maintained since they have expired and to take measures to further promote the sustainable development objectives relevant for the institution.</p> |
| <p>Department of Community Based Corrections</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 09 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Justice ❖ Department of Community Based Corrections | | |
| 01 | <u>Not responding to the audit queries</u> | The Committee observed that there was a lack of response to the audit queries by the department and even the responses provided were also incomplete. While emphasizing that it is the head of institution that should |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>respond to the audit queries the Committee pointed out the submitting the information provided by the regional offices as it is cannot be accepted as a complete response.</p> |
| 02 | <u>Staff vacancies</u> | <p>It was revealed before the Committee that there were a total of 43 vacancies in the department by the end of year 2022. The Committee observed that there had been vacancies in 10 Senior Community Correction Officer posts and one Administrative Officer post from year 2015 and year 2010 respectively.</p> <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. stated,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As on 2015, there were no officer had completed a 10 year service , which is required to be promoted to the post of Senior Community Correction Officer, since the Department of Community Based Corrections was established in year 2007. • That interviews in this regard were held in year 2021 and names of 10 qualified officers have been forwarded to the Public Services Commission and it is yet to grant the approval. |
| 03 | <u>Unavailability of a service constitution</u> | <p>In response the C.A.O. / A.O. said recruitment and promotions are conducted according to the procedures approved by the Public Services</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>The Committee inquired how the recruitment and promotions could be done without a service constitution.</p> | <p>Commission although a service constitution is unavailable.</p> |
| <p>04</p> | <p><u>Main functions of the Department of Community Based Corrections</u></p> <p>Emphasizing that reducing the overcrowding in prisons is a major role of the department, the Committee asked to explain how the correction process is carried out.</p> | <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. stated,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main objective of establishing the aforesaid department was to reduce the overcrowding in prisons. • That Community Correctional Officers are serving at every Magistrate Court. • That Community Correctional Officers are serving at divisional secretariats. <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. also added that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That persons sentenced to imprisonment of less than two years/suspended sentence or fine for minor offenses shall be referred for correction at the discretion of the Magistrate based on the request of attorneys and, • That the order of the Magistrate shall be effective for a period of 50 to 300 hours to be paid within a period of 03 months to 02 years, • That Community Correctional Officers prepare a community correction plan for the offenders |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>who are directed for correction as per the determination of the court and the aforesaid community correction plan include counseling, livelihood development programs, spiritual development programs, personality development programs and vocational training programs for young offenders.</p> <p>The C.A.O. / A.O. further stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual counseling as well as group counseling services are provided by Community Correctional Development Officers and although alcohol-related offenders are directed to hospitals for clinical and residential treatment as required, drug-related offenders cannot be referred for clinical treatment. • If the respective person is employed he or she will undergo the correction procedure while engage in duty and in a familiar environment. • That the aforesaid correctional process include personality development programs, spiritual development programs where religious leaders are also involved and vocational development programs for the unemployed. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the correctional process will be completed after the Community Correctional Officers submit the Completion Certificate to the Magistrate after the expiry of the relevant hours, • As a whole in many countries, the success rate of the correctional process is around 18%, and in Sri Lanka it is about 20%. |
| 05 | <p><u>Correctioning of offenders while staying in their homes</u></p> <p>The Committee was of the opinion that it is not a successful method to direct the convicts to the correctional process while they are in their homes and in their usual surroundings, and that correctional centers need to be established for the purpose.</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are many deficiencies in the physical resources of correctional offices maintained at court complexes, • Even so, measures will be taken to carry out the affairs of the department efficiently by avoiding the shortcomings pointed out by the Committee, • Required measures will be taken to appoint a steering committee and to appoint an advisory board after informing the Hon. Minister of Justice as proposed by the Committee. |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee stated that the correctional process will not be successful entirely from the activities carried out by the Community Correctional Officers. The Committee pointed out that a proper program needs to be prepared with the involvement of a group of experts including counsellors, religious leaders and psychiatrists. It also emphasized the need for follow-up on persons who are reintegrated to the society after the correctional process.</p> <p>Since continuous monitoring and follow-up is necessary to make the work carried out by the department more efficient, the Committee ordered the A.O. of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to appoint an advisory board as well as a steering committee for the purpose and to prepare a program for the establishment of correctional centers and to submit a report to the Committee regarding the aforesaid process before 10th of July 2023.</p> <p>Relevant report has been submitted to the Committee from the letter MOJ/AC/37/11/2023 sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Justice,</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms dated 10.07.2023</p> <p><i>It is mentioned in the report that in order to carry out the work of this department efficiently, an advisory board headed by the Secretary to the Ministry will be appointed and a steering committee headed by the head of the department will be appointed to implement the recommendations of the advisory board.</i></p> |
| <p>06</p> | <p><u>The correctional process not being carried out properly and lack of awareness of the society</u> As on 31.12.2022, the number of prisoners related to minor offenses is 1385. Failure to take necessary measures to obtain orders to direct them to the correctional process.</p> | <p><u>Observations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although various activities including drug prevention programs, training courses on project management, conducting workshops to develop public relations and communication skills were included in the action plan of the department, aforesaid activities had not been carried out. • The Magistrate Judges tend to direct minor offenders for correction, if the correctional process is carried out properly. • It is an important factor with regard to reducing the overcrowding in prisons. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>Ministry of Education</p> <p><i>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 20 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <p>❖ Ministry of Education</p> | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Issues on the implementation of National Education Management Information System (NEMIS)</u></p> <p>Failure to comply with the directive given by the Committee on Public Accounts on 12.02.2016 to develop a systematic computer software including the information of the students and teachers.</p> <p>It was revealed that data uploaded in to the _National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) system has not been accurately updated and specific information about the actual staff is not available.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer (C.A.O./A.O) intimated that information about all the teachers had been included in the information system, and • the officers attached to the Data Management Division had visited the Zonal offices and updated data to minimize the delays in updating information. <p><u>Observations/Recommendations</u></p> <p>The committee stated that it was not satisfied with the functioning of the Teachers’ Information database and it further noticed that attention had not been paid on the possible practical issues in this.</p> <p>The committee further stated that it would summon another meeting on 07.07.2023 to further revisit the Teachers’ Information database.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>02.</p> | <p><u>The low percentage of attendance of A/L students in government schools</u></p> <p>Although the Committee on Public Accounts held on 08.08.2019 has given a directive to conduct a research in this regard, seeking solutions for the above issue and to submit a report containing proposals for that, no progress can be seen in that regard.</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer (C.A.O./A.O) intimated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering the recommendations of the Committee, the research branch of the Ministry of Education had conducted a research and given 15 recommendations in year 2019 , • the aforementioned recommendations had been considered in the process of drafting new education reform proposals, • the 2020-2030 Education Policy prepared by the National Education Commission had been presented to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Education Reforms, • the sub-committee had reached a decision to review the Education policy, and • discussions were currently being held on updating and preparing the curricular and administrative reforms by an expert committee headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister's consisting of twenty-five members appointed as the committee of experts. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 03. | <p><u>Provision of tab computers for students and teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the year 2019, 96,919 tab computers and 2,639 charging racks had been purchased at a cost of 3.4 billion, intending to distribute them among A/L students and teachers. However, 93,027 out of those computers had been distributed among students from year 6 to 11 at the end of the year 2020 disregarding the original purpose. • The remaining 3,892 tab computers had been given to 03 government institutions, but no specific educational system or any planned program (module) had been prepared to be implemented using these computers. • Most of the tab computers distributed at present are defunct or malfunctioned, and it was found out that some tab computers are missing. | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer (C.A.O./A.O) stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an expert committee appointed by the Ministry based on a Cabinet recommendation dated 05.12.2019 recommended that these tab computers be provided to students from grade 6 to 11 in under-facilitated schools, • Accordingly, this tab computers had been distributed for 1,401 schools, • The remaining 3,883 student computers and 09 teacher computers had been distributed to the Examination Department, e-Thakalawa (e-Thaksalawa) Learning Management System for distance education and colleges, and he further expressed that • relevant education modules had been prepared and sent to the schools that year. <p><u>Observations/Recommendations</u></p> <p>i. It was also stated that the expenditure incurred for the program of providing these tab computers had not been fully utilized and the computers had not been distributed fairly and this</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>program should be implemented effectively in the future.</p> <p>ii. The committee advised that the tab computers that have not yet been returned after being handed over to the Air Force should be immediately returned back.</p> <p>iii. The committee stated that the administrative system should be prepared so that the responsibility of these computers is properly handed over to the relevant officials and emphasized that policy decisions should be made by giving priority to the provision of computers for the needs of the students as the main purpose of the program.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the C.A.O/ A.O to submit the reports mentioned below.</p> <p>i. a summary report including the number of computers that are currently in use, the number of computers that are not in use, the period for which these computers can be used, the number missing computers out of these 96,919</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>tablets, and relevant information about other institutions to which these computers have been provided before 25.07.2023,</p> <p>ii. a proposed program for the effective use of those computers and a rough report to be submitted before 25.07.2023,</p> <p>iii. a report containing the long term plan of the above program before 26.09.2023.</p> <p>The summary report of the tab computers and the detailed report on the proposed program prepared for the effective use of those computers have been referred with the letter no. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II issued by the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, dated 11.09.2023. Further, the long-term plan of the program has also been referred in the letter dated 03.09.2023.</p> |
| 04. | <p><u>Drafting a National Education Policy</u></p> <p>i. The Ministry of Education has not responded the audit query no.18 of 2022 dated on the 10.04.2023 referred to</p> | <p>• The Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O)/ Accounting Officer (A.O) intimated that the proposed curricular and administrative reforms would be submitted to the committee of Experts headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister in the following week.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>them, ordering them to submit required information of the total of recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure amounting to Rs.5,219,297,390 incurred by the State Ministry of Educational reforms, Open University and Distance Learning for the period of years 2020-2022.</p> <p>ii. The Committee inquired of the current progress of the process of drafting a National Education Policy.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>i. The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O)/ Accounting Officer (A.O) to submit a detailed report of the expenses incurred on the Education Reform tasks and its effectiveness before 25.07.2023, and</p> <p>ii. to refer the detailed report on the program that has been drafted to be referred to the Committee of Experts by the Ministry within a period of one week (before 27.06.2023), and a comprehensive report including all details about the expected dates to implement the proposed reform program, committees of relevant officials, sub committees and technical committees which are to be appointed.</p> <p>The letter No. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, dated 11.09.2023, refers to a report on the expenditure incurred for the education reform programme and its effectiveness and the expected dates for the implementation of the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>new education reform program, committees of relevant officials, sub committees and technical committees which are to be appointed.</p> |
| <p>05.</p> | <p><u>Unauthorized use of school lands by third parties</u></p> <p>It was found out of the unauthorized use of a large number of lands owned by several other education institutes including 49 acres of lands belonging to 09 National schools and 22 other schools based on a sample survey conducted by the National Audit Office.</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O)/ Accounting Officer (A.O) stated that they had already started removing the concerned unauthorized residents.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/Observations</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O)/ Accounting Officer (A.O) to categorize schools with land acquisition issues,assigning the responsibilities to the Provincial Directors to collect information and conduct a follow-up process in that regard.</p> |
| <p>06.</p> | <p><u>Payment of compensation for an officer served in the Office of UNESCO Permanent Representative in Paris, France on the cancellation of her post.</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Education has made payments to the</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The C.A.O./A.O. stated that the officer concerned had filed a case in a France Judiciary against the decision taken to cancel the post held by her on 25th of January 2022, with effect from 31st of December 2021 without any prior notice, |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs for salary payments of a female officer appointed for the post of office assistant and later promoted to the post of Coordinating Officer to the Office of UNESCO Permanent Representative in Paris,France from the year 2007 to 2021 under the Cabinet approval no. අමුණ/08/1742/316/087 dated on 04.10.2006, and compensation has to be paid to her as the post held by her has been cancelled without a prior notice of one month period.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having discussed the background of this matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet approval had been obtained for the payment of a compensation of 30,898.56 Euros due to the high possibility of having to pay a higher compensation if the relevant litigation is entered into, • accordingly, the Ambassador had been informed to report its progress to the Judiciary, and • arrangements were underway to charge the amount of compensation from the officers responsible for the administrative mistake that led to pay compensation to the concerned officer. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>i. The Committee ordered the C.A.O./A.O. to send a complete report to the Committee within a week with the names, positions and other relevant details of the officials who worked at the French Embassy at that time, and the details related to the cancellation of the service of the officer in question and copies of those documents related to the letter</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>transactions of the termination of the service of this officer.</p> <p>It has been informed that the details of the officials worked at the French Embassy at that time who are accountable for the termination of service of this officer in question have been requested from the Permanent Representative Office in Paris, France. The letter No. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, dated 15.09.2023 contains a report containing the details related to the termination of the service of the officer in question and copies of those documents have also been referred.</p> <p>ii. The Committee stated that it would inform the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing to conduct an investigation on the officials who acted wrongly in this regard and submit a report to the Committee.</p> <p>The following details have been mentioned in the letter no. OM/E3/Paris issued by the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 18.08.2023, responding the letter no.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>PAC/9/4/2023, dated 14.08.2023 which was referred to the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Secretary of the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is no any financial or administrative obligation with the Ministry in relation to the officer in question or the post in question.</i> • <i>All financial and administrative decisions regarding the above mentioned officer were taken by the UNESCO National Commission.</i> • <i>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has only assisted the above mentioned organization through the Embassy in Paris.</i> |
| <p>07</p> | <p><u>Delays in resolving disciplinary issues</u></p> <p>A large number of unsolved disciplinary cases and long lasting disciplinary cases related to child abuse are pending.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The C.A.O./A.O. stated that the number of pending disciplinary and administrative issues as at June 15, 2023 had been reduced to 62, and • any further step could not be taken until the decisions of several cases are issued. <p><u>Observations/Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the C.A.O./A.O. to introduce a suitable mechanism to resolve the disciplinary</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>matters related to the Ministry of Education without any delay.</p> |
| <p>08.</p> | <p><u>Not appointing the officers in grade-I of the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service as Principals for 64 national schools.</u></p> <p>Grade 1 officers of the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service have not been appointed as principals for 64 national schools.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. intimated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals had only been appointed for 17 schools although interviews were called in 2019 to appoint Principals for 40 schools as appointments are made upon the number of existing vacancies based on the provisions of the service minute of the Education Administrative Service, • since the approval had been received to implement the unrestricted promotion system for island-wide services from 26.02.2019, this problem had been resolved then, and • immediate recruitment was to be done on a limited and merit basis to fill the existing vacancies in the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service. |
| <p>09.</p> | <p><u>Teaching appointments of Special Education Service</u></p> <p>It was revealed in the committee through a sample survey carried out by the National Audit Office that 207 teachers who had been appointed as teachers in the</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. intimated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specific circular had already been issued, stating that teachers appointed in the field of Special Education must be employed in the same field itself as per the directives given by the COPA, |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>field of special education were not employed in teaching activities in that field, but were employed in general teaching activities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum effort be made to prevent the situation concerned, and • it was expected to provide Education for Children with Special Education by hiring visting teachers. |
| <p>10.</p> | <p><u>Non-functioning of Sports Schools</u></p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that the activities of the sports schools which were started in 1989 with the aim of producing athletes of national and international level with sports skills are not fully functional and no arrangements have been made to enroll student athletes for the years 2022 and 2023.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 national level sports schools were not functioning during the previous 5 years, • 2 schoold out of them had been already closed down, • the above mentioned schools could not be restarted due to lack of necessary physical infrastructure and lack of qualified students, • the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs would contact the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and make a suitable arrangement for the that as it has become difficult to join new students to these schools due to insufficient allocations received, and • the payment made for Sports Instructors was also insufficient. |
| <p>11.</p> | <p><u>Expansion of cadet and scout movements</u></p> | <p>The Committee also stated that arrangements should be made for the expansion of cadet and scout movements in consultation with the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | Ministry of Defense and the Scout Association. |
| 12. | <p><u>Inactivity of the Sports Council</u></p> <p>Financial affairs of school sports associations are not properly controlled and supervised due to the Sports Council, which was established with the aim of developing, regulating and registering school sports associations at the school level, is not functioning properly.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O.stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instructions had been issued under the circular no.05/2020 to update the School Sports Council and School Sports Clubs in order to promote school sports, • currently, there were 35 active School Sports Clubs, • a Supervising Director had been appointed for the supervision of those sports clubs, and • school sports clubs with transactions more than 10 lakhs would be audited. |
| 13. | <p><u>The programme available with the Ministry to regulate the participation of school children in international competitions.</u></p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O.stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Ministry of Education would allow students to participate only for requests received from national associations, the Olympic Committee and for requests received under the circular 05/2020 submitted by school sports clubs, • there was progress in the participation of students in competitions after the appointment of 3800 coaches in the year 2022, and • sports with low participation would be recognized at the regional level, |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>and initiatives were set to be launched to promote them.</p> <p>The committee gave a directive to make arrangements to properly organize the sports meets held at divisional, regional, and provincial levels.</p> |
| <p>14.</p> | <p><u>Establishment of 03 ICT Centers under the credit line of Korean EXIM Bank</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the current status and progress of the above mentioned project.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O.stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • although the relevant agreement was signed in 2019 for the establishment of 02 ICT centers at the provincial level and a National Curriculum Content Development Center, it had not been in active status, and • a revised feasibility study report for this project had been prepared and forwarded to the Department of External Resources. <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee directed the C.A.O./A.O. to appoint a committee regarding the establishment of the above ICT center and submit a comprehensive report before 25.07.2023, including the objectives of the project and the officers responsible in this regard.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>A report containing the expected role of these projects and the information of the relevant institutions has been referred in the letter No. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, dated 11.09.2023.</p> |
| <p>15.</p> | <p><u>Irregularity reported in Pattala Gedara Home Science Equipment Warehouse</u></p> <p>The current status of the investigation into the irregularity of 12.9 million rupees in Pattala Gedara Home Science Equipment Warehouse.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the investigation report of the incident happened in the warehouse in the years 2012-2013 had been received, • administrative irregularities had been mentioned as the reason for that, and • the investigation into the incident happened in the years 2013-2014 was still in progress. <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee directed to expedite the investigation process and complete it.</p> |
| <p>16.</p> | <p><u>Large amounts of outstanding loan balances of the officers</u></p> <p>According to the Bank reconciliation statements, the balance due at the end of the</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O.stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most of these outstanding loan balances were of transferred officers, • it had taken a long time in handling this matter due to existing problems |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>year under review was Rs.198,883,895. Out of that, the balance that exceeded 5 years was Rs. 75,155,836, and no action was taken to settle or recover the said balance.</p> | <p>in the accounts managed by the Zonal Offices and difficulties in finding the necessary information,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extra staff had been deployed to further deal with this matter and • it was expected to take a final decision after a round of discussion with the Department of Public Accounts. |
| <p>17.</p> | <p><u>Issues related to the program to increase the number of national schools to thousand. (1000)</u></p> <p>Although about 2285 million rupees has been spent on this program, only 22 schools have been made into national schools so far.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they had been instructed to regulate the remaining schools except for 22 schools, under the purview of Provincial Councils according to the Cabinet paper issued on the limitation of public expenditure dated 31.05.2023, and • it had been proposed to be implemented as prioritized schools under the proposed education reforms. <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>The committee observed that the sum of Rs.2.42 million spent on making national school name boards for 831 provincial schools has become a useless expenditure as the above programme has been halted by now.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 18. | <p><u>The physical progress of the projects received as foreign aid to the Ministry of Education is at a very low level</u></p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Indian High Commission was carrying out the construction and procurement of the project to improve the infrastructure of estate schools under the aids received from the Government of India, • the Ministry of Education only maintained the accounts of relevant statistics, • the contractors had withdrawn it because they could not continue with the construction at the agreed quotations, • therefore, discussions were underway with the Department of External Resources to increase the project value, and • the project to build a National Faculty of Education for Technology under the aid of the Republic of Korea was currently underway. <p><u>Recommendations/Observations</u></p> <p>The Committee has directed the C.A.O./A.O. to submit a report including the date of implementation and the action plan of the project before the 25th of July 2023.</p> |

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| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>The relevant report has been referred in the letter No. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, dated 11.09.2023</p> |
| <p>19.</p> | <p><u>Issues pertaining to the Teachers’ service, Teacher Advisors’ service, Teacher Educators’ service, Education Administrative service, and issues in Pirivena Education System.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having salary anomalies in between each service, • Existing vacancies in the staff, • Delay in granting teaching appointments. | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Cabinet Memorandum was being drafted for a salary revision in the Education Administrative Service, • the approval had been granted to fill 445 out of 1200 vacancies through a competitive examination according to the provisions mandated by its service minute, • those who have expressed their agreement to be absorbed into the Teacher Advisors’ service had already been absorbed, • the main problem faced here was the salary anomalies existing in between different services, • there were about 32,000 identified vacancies in the Teachers’ Service, • there was a delay in giving teacher promotions within the specified time frame due to the lack of staff in the regional teacher development centers and the inability to provide the training required for promotions in the relevant period, • provisions allocated for these in-service trainings were inadequate, |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approval had been received for recruitments to fill 706 vacancies in the Teacher Educators’ service, and • interviews would be conducted promptly and these recruitments would be made accordingly. <p>The committee reiterated that the practical problems pertaining to these services should be resolved promptly.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered the C.A.O./A.O.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to submit a report including the salary anomalies existing in between each grade of these services, the number of employees that should be in the service,number of officers those who are currently serving in each grade, and the proposals to resolve these problems within 3 months, and • to submit a report on the existing problems pertaining to Pirivena Education and proposed solutions for them before 07.07.2023. <p>The report on Pirivena Education has been referred in the letter No. ED/05/90/Audit/COPA/2023-II, of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education,dated 13.07.2023 and the</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>detail report on the issues pertaining to Teacher Advisors’ Service and steps taken to resolve them has also been referred in the letter issued by him,dated 11.09.2023.</p> |
| <p>Colombo Municipal Council - “Inspection of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project”</p> <p>Date of Examination : 21 June 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government ❖ Ministry of Investment Promotion ❖ Western Provincial Council ❖ Colombo Municipal Council | | |
| 1 | <p>It was revealed in the committee that foreign loans worth of 244.66 million US dollars and domestic loans worth of 47.41 million US dollars were approved under 04 loan agreements for the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project.</p> <p>As of 31.12.2022, only USD 112.91 million of the total loan amount has been utilized.</p> | <p>The C.A.O./A.O. stated before the Committee that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project (Loan No. 2557/2558) implemented under the aid of the Asian Development Bank, had been scheduled to end on 30.06.2015, but it had been extended until 30.06.2023, ● further, a sum of Rs.239 million had to be paid on the the unutilized loan balance due to non-utilization of the loan amount within the agreed period, |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the project has been planned in the year 2004 by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board with the aid received from the Asian Development Bank. • the project had been handed over to the Greater Colombo Municipal Council in the year 2009 based on a government decision , and • the contract agreement had been signed in the year 2010 and expert support had been obtained for the project in the year 2011. |
| 2 | <p>During the inspection of operating equipment worth Rs. 577.82million purchased by the Municipal Council in the year 2013, certain equipment was passively dilapidated.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/Observations/ Directives</u></p> <p>(i) The Committee ordered the C.A.O./A.O. to submit a report including the list of members of the tender board relevant to the purchase of the operating equipment, the list of members of the technical evaluation committee within two (02) weeks.</p> <p>(ii) further,the Committee ordered the C.A.O./A.O. to submit a report including the following details of the above mentioned operating machines/equipment before the 14th of July 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of all operating machines/equipment |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>purchased at the above mentioned value, A recommendation on the use of each of those operating machines/equipment, Details of the operating machines/equipment that are currently in operation and the in state of defunct, whether the above mentioned operating machines/equipment have been used at the cost value of them, and reasons if the above mentioned operating machines/equipment have not been used as expected.</p> <p>The above reports have been submitted to the Committee by the letter of the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipality dated 28.07.2023, No. Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2).</p> |
| 3 | <p>It was revealed at the Committee that the Commissioner General of Prisons has requested the Colombo Municipality to look into the matter and take appropriate measures regarding the inundation of a female inmate building belonging to the Prisons</p> | <p>It was revealed before the committee that the sewerage system connected to the female inmate building belonging to the Prison Department passes through the manhole of the Colombo Municipality, and that the manhole is located on a land belonging to the Department of Railways. Further, it was revealed at the Committee that there are obstacles in doing what is</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Department during the rainy season.</p> | <p>needful as there is an unauthorized construction on the said manhole.</p> <p><u>Recommendations/Observations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to send a letter to the General Manager of the Department of Railways, requesting him to take suitable measures in this regard.</p> <p>The Municipal Commissioner has submitted the letter No. ME/WSD/DIR/38/2023, dated 07.06.2023 to the General Manager of the Department of Railways.</p> |
| 4 | <p>The Committee observed that a Steering Committee and a team for Policy Support have been appointed with the officers attached to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, to address the matters cropped up in the execution of the project.</p> <p>Further, it was observed that the Steering Committee has not been held as scheduled</p> | <p>The Committee observed that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the staff of the team for Policy Support has been approved by the Management Services Department from 2010 to 2014 , but it has functioned without any approval from the year 2015 to 2017, • around Rs.9 million has been paid to the officers of the concerned committees without any approval, and • further, the Department of Management Services has granted the approval to the above mentioned staff again in the year 2017. |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>despite the fact that it should be held twice a month.</p> | <p><u>Recommendations/Observations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to submit a report containing the date of appointment of the above project steering committee and the policy support group, information of the officers who have served and who are serving in those committees (including the information of retired officers) and the dates of those meetings, the performance notes of those meetings and the decisions taken in the meetings before the 14th of July 2023.</p> <p>The Municipal Commissioner has submitted the above mentioned reports to the committee with the letter No.Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2), dated 28.07.2023.</p> <p>The committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to summon the officers of the concerned committees including all the retired officers for the committee to investigate into the “Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project”.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 5 | <p>The Committee observed that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contract value of the Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project of Greater Colombo Municipality is approximately USD 57 million, • it includes 11 projects of construction and renovation of pumping stations, and • those 07 pumping stations were to be renovated and 04 pumping stations to be constructed anew. <p>Further, the committee observed that the construction of 03 out of 11 pumping stations have been abandoned and 03 other pumping stations have already been completed and handed over to the Municipal Council for operation.</p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>(i) The Committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O of the Colombo Municipal Council and the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to submit a report including following details regarding the 11 projects separately within 2 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name of the project - the date on which the project agreement was inked and the value of the project - the date on which the construction of each of those projects needs to be finished - reasons if the construction of the projects has not yet been completed and the actions that have been taken to complete the above mentioned construction as scheduled. <p>(ii) The Committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to submit a report within 02 weeks, ensuring</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>them whether the completed projects that have been handed over are executed effectively.</p> <p>(iii) Further, the committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O of the Department of National Budget to submit a report including the following information about the said projects before July 14, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the dates on which the project agreements were inked. - the dates on which the projects were completed. - amounts of money allocated for the said projects. - projects that should be prioritized. <p>The above reports have been submitted to the Committee by the letter No. Mt/ADM/COPA/2023(2) of the Municipal Commissioner of the Greater Colombo Municipality, dated 28.07.2023</p> |
| 6 | <p>Quality assessment of up to 125 km of pipes in the 250 km long sewerage pipe line of the Colombo Municipal Council area using CCTV cameras during 2015-2017 and detecting and repairing nearly</p> | <p>It was stated at the committee that the said information system had been handed over to the Colombo Municipal Council.</p> <p>It was revealed at the committee that only 30 km of the sewerage pipe of 125</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | 480 locations that should be repaired. | <p>km has been completed due to a lack of required funds.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the C.A.O/A.O of the Colombo Municipal Council to present a PowerPoint presentation regarding the said 250 km long sewerage pipe line in the Colombo Municipal Council area including the following details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewage system plan (Layout Plan), pumping stations included in the project, issues of the sewage system, the parties from whom credit were taken for the construction of pumping stations and the credit amounts obtained, the dates of commencement of other projects included in the overall project and the objectives, related estimated items/ contracted items, Dates of completion of those projects, Details of projects completed and taken over by the Colombo Municipal Council (including machinery), abandoned projects and pending dates of incomplete projects. |
| 07. | Since the Master Plan of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project was | <p>The Committee noted that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the credit obtained could be utilized within the prescribed time, if it is |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>prepared in the year 1999, the committee observed the need to prepare a new master plan for this project.</p> | <p>possible to initially obtain a small amount of Technical Assistant Loans to complete the procurement process and get the loan for the project at a time near the granting of the contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accordingly, it will not be necessary to pay the Commitment Charges that would have to be paid to the lending institution when the loan had not been utilized within the prescribed time period. |
| Ministry of Health (Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 of the Ministry of Health and the Special Audit Report on the Management of Vehicles of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine and the Current Performance) Date of Examination : 23 June 2023 | | |
| Institutions Summoned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Health ❖ Office of the Comptroller General | | |
| 01 | <p><i>Facts revealed in the special audit report on vehicle management of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine</i></p> <p><u>Missing Vehicles</u></p> | <p>The Comptroller General stated that since 2017, circulars have given instructions to the Ministry of Health regarding the recording and management of correct information in the reporting of non-financial assets centrally.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>It was revealed that 1794 vehicles owned by the Ministry of Health are missing and the software obtained for the management of the vehicles of the Ministry of Health is not functioning properly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 1794 missing vehicles, there are 679 motor vehicles and 1115 motor cycles and the Motor Transport Department has been informed by letter dated 12.09.2018 not to issue revenue licenses for motor vehicles. • The Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/Accounting Officer (AO) stated that the software system for vehicle management is currently being implemented. | <p><u>Recommendations/Directives</u></p> <p>In consultation with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy and the Department of Motor Transport regarding the measures to be taken regarding these 1794 vehicles and the measures to be taken to prevent such a situation in the future, the Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Health to submit a written report on the same before 23 July 2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021 /MOH/2023(II) and letter dated 27.07.2023. Accordingly, it has been stated that 1325 assigned vehicles have been detected by 20.07.2023 and an urgent program is being implemented by the Transport Division of the Ministry of Health to detect all the vehicles within a short period of time.</p> |
| 02 | <p><u>Points raised by the Departments of the Ministry of Finance</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered the Ministry of Health's CAO/AO to provide a report</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Department of State Accounts The Department of State Accounts pointed out that there is a large difference in non-financial assets related to the accounts of the Ministry of Health, uncollected loan money in the Advance B account, unsettled advance money and cash advances given under F.R. 106 and there are problems in receiving and balancing the accounts.</p> <p>• Department of Treasury Operations The Department of Treasury Operations stated that 24% of the capital disbursement limit and 33% of the recurring disbursement limit have been released within the approved monetary limit to the Ministry of Health and that the settlement of bills over 3 months will continue.</p> <p>• Department of Public Finance</p> | <p>on the balance of the account to the committee before 23rd July 2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been submitted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(III) and letter dated 07.09.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>The Department of Public Finance pointed out that emergency procurement guidelines have been issued to the Ministry of Health in July 2022 on how to conduct procurement in emergency situations, and if those guidelines are followed, procurement problems can be resolved.</p> <p>• Department of National Budget The National Budget Department pointed out that about 1/3 of the annual budget estimation is allocated for medical supplies, if accurate forecasts are made, the provisions can be properly allocated and it is necessary to address weaknesses such as inadequate maintenance of safety stocks and excessive emergency purchases.</p> <p>• Department of Management Services</p> | |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>It has been revealed that the number of approved carder for the Ministry of Health and other institutions and hospitals under the Ministry is 95,947 as on 31.12.2022.</p> | |
| 03 | <p><u>The incident involving the concealment of surgical consumables at Colombo National Hospital.</u></p> <p>On 24.08.2022, in the physical inspection conducted by the auditors in respect of Theater Room B of the Colombo National Hospital, Rs. 8,842,068/- of surgical consumables, that have been removed from the Navaloka theater in an ad hoc manner, were found hidden in the ceiling of the suture room.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Emergency Raid Division of the Ministry of Health has started investigations | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is observed that surgical equipment has been purchased in excess of the required amount, and this purchase should be cross-checked. • To appoint a committee before 03.07.2023 to implement the recommendations given by the Auditor General in relation to this incident and to report to the Committee on the responsibility and role of the said committee, • That a complete report on the said investigation be given to the committee before 28.07.2023, • The Committee directed the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health to prepare a report before 23.07.2023 about a method of cross-checking when issuing equipment/materials to other hospitals and to prepare a suitable |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That preliminary investigations regarding damages and disciplinary proceedings have been conducted and reported to the Ministry of Health • That an Inventory Management Committee has been appointed in all operating theatres • That action has been taken against two officials directly involved in the incident | <p>work order to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.</p> <p>It has been informed that the relevant committee has been appointed by the letter No. MH/FS/AD/A/COPA/21/2023 and dated 04.07.2023 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(III) and letter dated 2023.09.07 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Health that disciplinary action will be taken against the relevant officials by submitting a report and the method of cross check and informed about other related actions.</p> |
| 04 | <p><u>Formally conduct audit and management committees</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directs the Ministry of Health's CAO/AO to prepare agendas and work notes regarding the Audit and Management Committees and to take necessary steps regarding the regular conduct of the Audit and Management Committees and to report to the Committee in this regard.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The relevant report has been submitted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(II) and letter dated 27.07.2023. Accordingly, it has been stated that provincial audit and management committees will be held as scheduled from 2022 and the Chief Internal Auditor will participate representing the Ministry of Health. Further, in the letter dated 11.01.2023, all the provincial audit and management committee chairpersons have been informed and it has been stated that by paragraphs 4 and 5 instructions have been given regarding the preparation of the agenda and the matters to be discussed and the reports respectively.</p> |
| 05 | <p><u>Purchase of medical supplies without the recommendation of the Prescription Review Committee contrary to the Cabinet Decision on the Action Plan for Procurement of Medicines</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health was directed that a proper decision should be taken with regards to purchasing medicines and medical supplies on the recommendations of the Prescription Review Committee or</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Due to the economic crisis in the country, a review was conducted on special medicines and action was taken to purchase essential medicines, the Ministry of Health announced.</p> | <p>on any other mode/system, and a report should be submitted with regards to it on or before 28.07.2023 to the Committee .</p> <p>It's informed that via the letter No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/20192021/M OH/2023(II) dated 27.07.2023 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the relevant report has been submitted and has informed that it has been decided to make purchases based on the recommendations of the Prescription Review Committee.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>Having the same drug prescribed under a large number of brand names and increasing the manufacturing capacity of the State Pharmaceutical Corporation</u></p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribing the same drug under multiple brand names is currently regulated • It is necessary to carry out regulatory activities while | |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>being concerned about the emergence of a market monopoly</p> <p>Regarding whether a program is currently being implemented to increase the production capacity of the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC), The Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the State Pharmaceutical Corporation and the Ministry of Health have entered into a joint venture agreement and called for an Expression of Interest (EOI). • That more drugs are being produced than last year • That work is being done to start an investment zone in the Millaniya area • That SPMC has improved its machinery under World Bank assistance | |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 07 | <p><u>The Medical Supply Management Information System (MSMIS) and the “Swastha” system established in the Ministry of Health</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health to,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. An independent committee (with the involvement of Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA)) on the financial value and effectiveness of the two computerized systems established within the Ministry of Health, namely the MSMIS system, which has been discontinued, and the newly established “Swastha” system. to be studied by and a report on it to be given to the committee before 28.07.2023 ii. To complete the data entry in MSMIS in the new "Swastha" system before 10.07.2023 iii. A dated report regarding the implementation phase of the new “Swastha” system to be submitted to the Committee before 28.07.2023 <p>It is stated that through the letter No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(II) dated 2023.08.04 of the Secretary of the</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Ministry of Health, it has been informed that despite a request to nominate a representative of ICTA, it is not possible to nominate a representative. A study report prepared by an independent committee consisting only of officials of the Ministry of Health has been submitted.</p> <p>Submitting reports relating to ii and iii via letter No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(II) of the Secretary to the Health Ministry dated, 27.07.2023, it was stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The data in MSMIS was entered into the new "Swastha" system during 01.06.2023 to 05.06.2023.</i> • <i>Data and records of stock balances in the MSMIS system were absorbed into the "Swastha" system</i> • <i>That the said data has been correctly absorbed by the Stock Verification Division of the Ministry of Health</i> • <i>"Swastha" System is in operation at 422 regional hospitals including all institutions under the line ministry from 17.07.2023 and the</i> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <i>facilities available through the system are mentioned.</i> |
| 08 | <p><u>Shortage of medicines and importation of substandard medicines</u></p> <p>According to the inquiry made by the committee whether there is a shortage of medicines and whether substandard medicines are being purchased, the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shortage of 253 types of medicines in the central medicine storage • This number may be higher in hospitals • Measures will be taken to always purchase quality medicines • It is necessary to register with the National Medicines Regulatory Authority in tender submission • The State Pharmaceutical Regulatory Corporation | <p>In December 2022, the National Drug Regulatory Authority had issued 48 Certificates of Waiver of Registration (WOR) to private companies for the import of 48 items of drugs, however, the National Drug Regulatory Authority did not evaluate the relevant drugs on their quality, condition, safety and authenticity of those drugs and disclaiming of its responsibility by the National Drug Regulatory Authority arguing that the responsibility should be taken by the Director of Medical Supplies Division.</p> <p>It has been stated by the Director of the Medical Supply Division that responsibility cannot be taken for the condition of drugs imported under the Waiver of Registration (WOR).</p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenders were given to new suppliers to avoid shortage of medicines as the registered suppliers did not come forward when the tenders were called to buy medicines under the |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>(SPC) will take steps such as preparing a Product Analytical Report and obtaining pre shipment test sample from a new supplier.</p> <p>The Committee emphasized the importance of the Ministry of Health submitting accurate forecasts to the Budget Department in allocating financial allocations to the Ministry of Health through the budget.</p> <p>The committee inquired about, Administrative decisions lead to problematic situations such as shortage of drugs, use of low quality drugs and increase in expired drugs and improper management of donated drugs.</p> <p>By the time certain drugs are identified as defective drugs, the drugs have been used up and sometimes they have expired.</p> <p>Due to this, the loss cannot be recovered from the concerned</p> | <p>Indian Credit Line (Indain Credit Line).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not registered with the National Drug Regulatory Authority, accordingly, arrangements were made to issue registration exemption certificates <p>Furthermore, according to the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act No. 5 of 2015 and its related gazettes, only if the relevant registration process has been carried out according to the authority's terms and conditions, the responsibility for the importation of medicines can be assumed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importer shall bear the responsibility for importation of drugs under Waiver of Registration • The responsibility for importing medicines under the Indian Credit Line has been assigned to the Medical Supplies Division as the importer. <p>However, the committee pointed out that importing medicines irresponsibly is a serious matter and inquired about the deaths that occurred in recent days due to the administration of anesthetic</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>supplier, and the arrangements for avoiding the above situations.</p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical problems in storage can also lead to drug quality failure • This problem can be avoided to some extent by examining the case by case and replacing the drugs. | <p>medicines imported under Waiver of Registration.</p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deaths were not caused by suspected anesthetic drugs • No further information can be disclosed in this regard • Discontinue use of substandard drugs as soon as they are discovered • Orders are made on the recommendations of the Indian High Commission for the purchase of medicines under the Indian Credit Line. • The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) will check the necessary documents while purchasing medicines. <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Chief Accounting Officer and Enumeration Officer of the Ministry of Health have been directed to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <p>Further directives were given to the Chief Enumeration Officer, emphasizing the importance of providing accurate clarifications to counter misinformation spread by the media regarding incidents in the health sector.</p> |
| 09 | <p><u>Arrange for Accreditation Board approval for laboratories that test the quality of medical supplies</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health was also instructed to take necessary measures to get the approval of the Accreditation Board for the laboratories for testing the condition of medical supplies.</p> <p>Via the letter CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(II) dated 2023.07.27 a report was submitted to the committee informing on the deficiencies and on the on-site-assessment scheduled on 2023.05.03 which was not conducted due to shortage in trained staff and that it has been agreed to conduct the on-site-assessment following the recruitment of such staff.</p> |
| 10 | <p><u>Emigration of doctors</u></p> | <p>The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health stated that,</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>The committee asked how far the emigration of doctors has affected the proper maintenance of medical services in the country.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the economic crisis in the country, there is a trend of doctors leaving for foreign countries. • The departure of specialist doctors for foreign countries poses a significant challenge. • In the event of a breach of the agreement made at the time of going abroad, doctors will be liable for the costs incurred from the start of their post-graduation until their return. • It is crucial to retain senior doctors for teaching roles in the post-graduate institute. • Doctors must find a balance between retirement age, overseas opportunities, and returning to Sri Lanka. |
| 11 | <p><u>Providing answers regarding the audit matters contained in the summary note of the Auditor General's report (23.06.2023)</u></p> | <p>The committee emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate data regarding medical tests conducted by hospitals, and directed the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Health to submit reports in reply to, 35 of the 70 audit observations contained in the summary note prepared by the Auditor General for the meeting (2023.06.23) of Committee on Public Accounts in relation to the Ministry of Health, by</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p>31.07.2023 and for the remaining 35 observations by 31.08.2023.</p> <p>Answers have been submitted by the letters of the Secretary to the Ministry of Health No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019 2021/MOH/2023(III) dated 2023.09.07 and No. CA/AQ/FCC02/COPA/2019- 2021/MOH/2023(III) dated 2023.09.15.</p> |
| <p>Department of Probation & Childcare Services</p> <p><i>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019,2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 04 July 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment ❖ Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms ❖ Department of Probation and Child Care Services ❖ Department of Prisons ❖ Department of Police ❖ National Child Protection Authority | | |
| 01 | <p><u>Audit and Management Committee Meetings</u></p> <p>That the Department of Probation and Child Care Services does not have an</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated that under the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs, and Social Empowerment, the Audit and Management Committees will convene jointly.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>internal audit unit and that audit and management committee meetings are not held.</p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>Emphasizing the importance of having an internal audit unit in the department and holding audit and management committee meetings, the Committee ordered the CAO/AO to establish an internal audit unit and report to the Committee before July 25, 2023.</p> <p>The letter of the Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 has informed that the Internal Audit Committee has been established and had its first meeting.</p> |
| 02 | <p><u>Underutilization of the UNCRC data system.</u></p> <p>Underutilization of the UNCRC data system assigned to the Department for the need to submit timely and accurate reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the year</p> | <p>CAO/AO stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That this data system remains underutilized due to limitations such as complexity of implementation, lack of necessary server facilities and the unavailability of the related software system for its implementation, even though it was commenced to coordinate 28 institutions to report relating to the implementation of the Charter of Children's Rights as a project of the |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>2018 including consultancy fees of Rs. 2,350,000.</p> | <p>Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Empowerment with the financial support of “Save the Children” institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That at present, efforts are being made to activate this data system by obtaining hosting facilities through Sri Lanka Telecom institutions with the financial support of UNICEF. <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>(i) The Committee emphasized the need to conduct a proper feasibility study in the implementation of such projects and to train at least a few officers from one institution for the continuous implementation of such data systems,</p> <p>(ii) The Committee directed the CAO/AO that, to submit a report to the Committee before 08.08.2023, including the dates of implementation of this data system by coordinating the relevant institutions.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>(iii) That all important information/data about children should be kept up-to-date in the data system owned by this department</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has sent a report including the expected dates for the implementation of the UNCRC data system by letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023.</p> |
| 03 | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 04 August 2021.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 06 – Challenges in gathering data on vulnerable/ at-risk children and a shortage of Provincial Probation Officers among the officers in the Divisional Secretariats and the issues relating to receiving reports and properly coordinating matters that concerns children.</p> | <p>The Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that data on vulnerable/at-risk children comes from several sources, such as the Probation Department, Crimes Against Children, Children's Homes data, etc. • That they exist mainly in the Ministry data system maintained by the National Child Protection Authority and in the Sri Lanka Police, • Availability of a National Childcare Authority corporate data system. • That there is a need to prepare a national data system by including |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>the complaints received by the Department of Labour, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka Police, Human Rights Commission etc. in this data system,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For this, there is a need to provide training to the officers and regional officers of these institutions to enter complaints in the data system. <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>(i) The committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a national data system for reporting children's problems by integrating these data systems which are important for the promotion of children's rights.</p> <p>(ii) based on the information disclosed in the Committee, the committee directed the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Empowerment, that a program should be prepared to obtain information at the provincial & national levels for the local probation and child care service officers to take expedite measures with regards to the children that do not attend school and on children's</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>literacy, and to obtain related information from the schools in compliance with the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Education in 2016 (2016.04. 20 - No. 1963/30 - Compulsory attendance of children in schools) and a report should be submitted to the committee before 08.08.2023</p> <p>Via the letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 from the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, the Commissioner of Probation and Child Care has informed the Ministry of Education with regards to this, and accordingly, the Ministry's decision has been sent to the former.</p> <p>(iii) The Committee directed the CAO/AO of Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Empowerment, that a report regarding the education of children kept in orphanages (institutionalized) be sent to the committee before 08.08.2023.</p> <p>A report in this regard has been sent via letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 by the Secretary to the</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</p> |
| <p>04</p> | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 04 August 2021.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 09 - The post of Legal Officer has not been filled up.</p> | <p>The CAO/AO stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications were invited to fill the vacancies in the post of Legal Officer but candidates with requisite qualifications did not appear. • The tendency of qualified people not to apply for such positions due to insufficient salaries in the public service has been the reason for not being able to fill the vacancies in the respective positions. • At present, the Ministry’s Legal Officer is acting in the said position <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The committee emphasized that,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A full-time officer should be appointed to the post of Legal Officer in concern. (ii) The need to take policy decisions at the national level on the salary offer required to attract applicants to fill vacancies in such posts in public institutions. |

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| 05 | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 04 August 2021.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 10 - Laws, Acts and Ordinances including Child Adoption Ordinance have not been amended to suit the timely needs.</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer stated that the Children and Youth Amendment Act has been drafted and forwarded to the Attorney General's Department through the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms on 10.04.2023 to obtain the necessary approval for constitutional review.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO that the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment should speed up the amendment of the above Act and contact the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms and provide a dated report on it to the Committee before 08.08.2023.</p> <p>Via the letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has informed that work is being done on this and the related timeline has been requested from the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.</p> |
| 06 | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directives issued by the Committee on Public</u></p> | <p>The officer representing the Sri Lanka Police stated that,</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p><u>Accounts in its meeting held on 04 August 2021.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 13 - The need to develop a system that can rescue children from the abuse they are subjected to through the use of the Internet</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Child Protection Authority and the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment jointly handle matters related to child abuse in cyber space. • The National Child Protection Authority and the Sri Lanka Police receive complaints with regards to this. • According to a Ministry of Education circular (2011/17) that childcare committees have been established in schools across the island to prevent abuse. • Accordingly, the Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority stated that there will be awareness programs on abuse and how to avoid becoming a victim of it, and the child victims will be referred to the relevant institutions. • Sri Lanka Police conduct schools-centered workshops on preventing abuse. • These activities are supervised under a DIG. • Complaints of cyber-crime are investigated by the Computer Crime Investigation Division (CCID) of the Sri Lanka Police. |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assistance of relevant expert institutions is sought for judicial proceedings. |
| 07 | <p><u>Progress in implementation of directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 04 August 2021.</u></p> <p>Directive No. 14 - The need to prepare a program to create socially-friendly social media censorship to prevent irregularities when reporting incidents on crimes against children</p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A proper regulation and systematic program should be developed regarding the reporting of child-related incidents by the media; (ii) The police and the National Child Protection Authority should work responsibly with the media when reporting incidents involving children, (iii) The media should not broadcast things that make children uncomfortable, including interrogations of children. |
| 08 | <p>Organizational structure and inter-operability between Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Department of Probation and Child Care Services, National Child Protection Authority and Provincial Probation and</p> | <p>The Commissioner of Probation and Childcare Services stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 officials of the Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Empowerment have been assigned to each Divisional Secretariat. • The Probation Department Officer attends the Steering Committee |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Child Affairs Departments at national level.</p> | <p>meeting held once in a quarter by the Divisional Secretary,</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO/AO that,</p> <p>(i) The above officers should properly address the problems/complaints related to children at the local level, district level, and provincial level and finally at the national level, they should prepare a program to ensure that the entire process is done correctly and create a monitoring system.</p> <p>(ii) A detailed report on that system and its implementation and coordination of relevant institutions should be submitted to the Committee before 08.08.2023</p> <p>A report on the composition and structure of the committees at the national and local levels has been sent via letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 09 | <p><u>National Childcare Authority Corporate Data System</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations/ Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized that,</p> <p>(i) This corporate data system should be integrated with other relevant institutions such as the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, the Department of Labour, the Sri Lanka Police, etc. and improved as a national data system with the support of the Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) and universities as soon as possible and a preliminary report including the program should be submitted before 2023.08.08 and,</p> <p>(ii) A report including timelines should be submitted to the committee before 04.10.2023.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Committee stated that a criteria should be included to measure the progress of the programme.</p> <p>The letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated 07.08.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | informed that the report including timelines related to the establishment of the National Data System will be provided in the future. |
| <p>Department of National Zoological Gardens</p> <p>(Auditor General’s Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</p> <p>Date of Examination : 05 July 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation ❖ Department of National Zoological Gardens | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Non inclusion of Ridiagama Safari Park and the new Wagolla Pinnawala Zoo in the National Zoological Gardens Act</u></p> <p>The fact that it has been ordered to include Ridiyagama Safari Park and the new Wagolla Pinnawala Zoo in the National Zoological Gardens Act and amend the Act during the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 08.03.2016,</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting officer/ Accounting officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Cabinet Memorandum dated 07.08.2019 was presented and the proval was received for amending this act. • the National Zoological Gardens Department has sent the bill dated 02.11.2022 to the Legal Draftments Department for amendments for the last time. <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer to,</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | <p>but the order has not been implemented so far. The Committee expressed its displeasure at this delay.</p> | <p>i. send a letter to the Legal Draftments Department stating that the Committee on Public Accounts had informed that the relevant amendments to the National Zoological Gardens Act be completed and sent within a month.</p> <p>ii. submit a report regarding the work of amending this Act to the Committee before 05.08.2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been given through the letter No. MWFRFC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 04.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Not having conducted sustantial research during the period of 2009-2015</u></p> | <p>The C.A.O./ A.O. stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the officers recruited under the post of Education and Research Assistant have done the work of preparing the necessary background for many researches. • the above officers are working in different sections of the department as they have been absorbed in the post of Development Officer. |
| 03. | <p><u>Lack of specific arrangement for conservation of endangered animals.</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting officer/ Accounting officer stated that</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are about 51 species of endangered animals according to the Red Data Book. • the the Department of National Zoological Gardens, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation and the Department of Wildlife Conservation jointly prepare Species Recovery Plans for the pangolin (kablalawa), slender loris (unahapulua), rusty-spotted cat (Koladiviya)and endemic fish species. <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer /Accounting Officer,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. that steps be taken to conserve all animal species identified as being endangered. ii. to appoint a committee in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Department of Wildlife Conservation and other related institutions to conserve those animals and submit a complete report with an action plan to the Committee before 05.08.2023. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>A report containing information about the institutions that should contribute to the implementation of an inter-institutional joint program has been given through the letter No. MWFRC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 04.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.</p> |
| 04. | <p><u>The matter of downgrading the Sri Lankan Leopard from the 'Most Endangered' category to the "endangered" category of the Red Data Book getting the attention of the committee.</u></p> | <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>i. The committee pointed out the importance of using formal research data obtained under a national census for such classifications, as the inclusion of local information in the Red Data Book is based on data obtained from independent researchers and other sources.</p> <p>ii. The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to Submit a report to the Committee before 05.08.2023 containing the reasons for downgrading the Sri Lankan Leopard from the category of 'Most Endangered' in the Red Data Book (by obtaining relevant information from organizations/ individuals involved in downgrading this classification in the Red Data Book)</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The relevant report has been submitted by the letter No. MWFRFC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 04.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation. The letter included in that report sent by the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment No. ENV/BD/3/5/35/ ශ්‍රේණිමි කරක සභා and dated 08.02.2023 to the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation, mentions that Sri Lankan Leopard belonged to the vulnerable (Vulnerable-VU) category under the Red List published in 2007 and was later nominated under the endangered (EN) category in the red list published in the year 2012, and accordingly the Sri Lankan Leopard has reached a higher level in terms of threat.</p> |
| 05. | <p><u>Wagolla Pinnawala Zoo</u></p> <p>Despite the fact that this zoo was established in 2015 as a conservation center to protect endemic and endangered</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the construction of the zoo's World Animal Zone has been halted due to funds being not sufficient. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | species of animals in Sri Lanka, only 10 animals belonging to 03 species of animals endemic to Sri Lanka are living in the zoo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements are being made to introduce foreign animals to the domestic animal zone in the future with the aim of increasing tourists arrivals to the zoo. |
| 06. | <p><u>Defects in the zoo's CCTV camera system and defects in building use and wastewater management system</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the CCTV camera system is in working condition, though only a few cameras in the system are out of order due to lack of necessary equipment. • the hotel built on the zoo premises was awarded to a buyer through the tender procedure and is currently operational. • there are problems in the practical implementation of the wastewater management system. |
| 07. | <p><u>Buggies that were used to facilitate travel for tourists in zoos being not operative</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 BUGGIES purchased in 2017 and 2018 and used in Pinnawala and Dehiwala zoos are inoperative due to the end of the life of the batteries. • battery reapplication costs about Rs.698,000 per vehicle. • The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>that the committee was of the opinion that it would be more appropriate to outsource BUGGY service in order to run the service with a formal regulation in the future and that the matter is currently being dealt with.</p> <p><u>Observations/ Recommendations</u></p> <p>Observing that there are discrepancies (overcharging) in the fees charged for safari jeeps, the committee pointed out that the chargeable amount per one kilo meter by local electric jeeps should be looked into and the use of local electric jeeps can be adopted as a solution to the above issue if this method is more profitable.</p> |
| 08. | <p><u>Existence of deficiencies in the procurement process for purchase of exotic birds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fact that the government has incurred a loss of 17.86 million rupees due to the purchase of exotic birds at high prices during the procurement of | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two suppliers who submitted bids were disqualified due to failure to meet the due tender conditions • the birds were purchased from the remaining suppliers as a result. • the prices obtained through the internet were used in preparing the estimates |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>those birds during the period from 2018 to 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revelation of the fact that there are very large gaps between the estimated values of the bird species and the purchased values, and that some purchases were 385% more than the estimated amount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this situation arose because the aforesaid data was not practically correct <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>Having expressed the displeasure over the incident, the Committee recommended the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. submit a report containing information about the purchase of these birds to the committee before 05.08.2023 ii. take measures to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in the future and to issue promptly a circular containing measures/ guidelines to be followed including preparation of correct estimates <p>The relevant report has been given by way of the letter No. MWFRC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 2023.08.04 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation and it has been informed that a circular containing guidelines for preparing accurate estimates has been issued on 02.08.2023.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>09.</p> | <p><u>Issues related to Ridiyagama Safari Park</u></p> <p>The fact that the construction of the Ridiagama Safari Animal Sanctuary has been halted and therefore an amount of 136 million rupees spent has been wasted.</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • these constructions were suspended as per the instructions of various circulars issued in recent past. • it is expected to work on the fencing of the zoo this year under a special approval from the treasury and to include the rest of the construction in the action plan so that the rest will be undertaken the next year. • an amount of construction worth more than the already given work based advance payment (Advance Payment) has been carried out. <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to submit a report on the partially completed construction of Ridhiagama Safari Park to the Committee before 05.08.2023.</p> <p>The relevant report has been given by way of the letter No. MWFRFC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 04.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p><u>The revelation that the constructions completed at a cost of around 215 million rupees between 2017 and 2020 have not been utilized so far.</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is expected to open the Australian zone among that constructions after receiving animals for that zone under exchange programs in the future. • more construction needs to be done in Cheetah and Leopard Zones • gender-wise numerical documentation of the animals in the Ridhiagama Safari Park has been done as of now. • star tortoises in zoos are animals detained on court orders • the development work of the road system in the zoo is expected to be completed by September 2023 • requests have been made to the Department of Agriculture to fill the shortage of veterinary staff. |
| 10. | <p><u>Preparation of the action plan of the Department of National Zoological Gardens</u></p> <p>Progress related to the preparation of the action plan of the Department of National</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer stated that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the work of the action plan was completed by the year 2020 • an expert panel has been appointed to prepare a master plan that will be |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <p>Zoological Gardens for 05 years as per the order given at the Committee on Public Accounts held in 2016.</p> | <p>applicable for 15 years and the matter is currently being dealt with.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the work of the action plan of the Department of National Zoological Gardens from the year 2024 to the year 2030, which is currently being prepared, be completed and submitted to the committee before 31.12.2023 with the approval of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation. ii. a report on the outline plan including the process expected to be carried out in the next 06 months by the committee appointed to prepare this plan together with the relevant time frame be submitted to the Committee before 05.08.2023 <p>The report on the activities expected to be carried out in the next 06 months by the committee appointed to prepare this plan had been given by way of the letter No.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>MWFRFC/F/F7/03/03 and dated 2023.08.04 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation and the Strategic Plan from 2024 to 2030 has been forwarded to the Committee on Public Accounts on 09.01.2024 with the approval of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Waste management issues at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage</u></p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due to amount of this garbage being large, the management of it using a crusher was entrusted to a private agency through tender procedure, but the agency has informed as of now that it cannot perform this task. • it is expected to manufacture this machine though the Department of Governmnt Factory. |
| 12. | <p><u>Consideration of the progress of meeting the key priorities of the Department of National Zoological Gardens</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer stated that activities such as building "Sathwa Arana" instead of cages for animals, implementing animal exchange programs with foreign zoos, conducting research with universities, and implementing programs with volunteer organizations are carried out under the fulfillment of these priorities. |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to appoint appropriate committees for the promotion of each sections listed under the main priorities of the Department of National Zoological Gardens depicted in the action plan of the same Department for the year 2024-2030 and implement each objective of the Act.</p> <p>It has been reported that the relevant committees have been established through the letter No. MWFRFC/F/F7/03/03 dated 04.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.</p> |
| <p>13.</p> | <p><u>Non-submission of detailed reports of income.</u></p> <p>The fact that the department has not provided a detailed income report to the Ministry of Finance regarding the ways of income from zoological gardens according to the types of income (sale of admission tickets, charging money for</p> | <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer stated that actions will be taken to provide such a detailed report during the preparation of the final accounts of the year 2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | watching animal activities, etc.). | |
| <p>Department of Animal Production & Health</p> <p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p>Date of Examination : 06 July 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Agriculture ❖ Department of Animal Production and Health | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Non-availability of information about imported bovine semen in the department</u></p> | <p>The committee inquired about the over production of bovine semen by the department which is about 34% more than the annual requirement of the country. The Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture stated that such excess production is done for emergency use and as the surplus is stored in liquid nitrogen,it can be kept for more than 20 years.</p> <p>The committee observed that there is no statistics/ follow-up in the department regarding the quantity, quality and success of the semen imported by the private sector.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a program to add to the national statistics the quantity, quality, and stock maintenance of bovine semen imported by the public and private sector and prepare an appropriate programme to follow up the success of them and forward a report thereof to the Committee by 7th August 2023.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of the letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 23.08.2023.</p> |
| 02. | <p><u>Issues regarding the national level data held by the Department</u></p> | <p>Having observed that there are problems with the accuracy of the national data held by the department, the committee questioned the fact that 1.3 million portions of bovine semen have been produced and about one million of them have been artificially inseminated, but a low number of about 316,000 calves have been born.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the success rate</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>of artificial insemination in the country is 30%, and efforts are being made to increase it to 40%, and this figure is around 50% at the global level.</p> |
| 03. | <p><u>Implementation of artificial insemination and determination of rates by public and private sector</u></p> | <p>The Committee inquired about the determination of fees for the service of artificial inseminators.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>Here, the relevant officials stated that each provincial council determine separately the fees related to artificial inseminations of the government, artificial inseminators related to the private sector should get registered for the purpose and no fees is currently being determined for private sector inseminators. The committee advised the department to make some intervention in determining the fees in consultation with the artificial inseminators of the private sector.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>04.</p> | <p><u>Involvement of Provincial Departments in implementation of artificial insemination programme</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>Having stated that it hopes to convene the 9 provincial departments in the future, the Committee ordered that the relevant officers in charge of the subject of the 9 provincial departments be informed about the matters discussed in today's committee meeting, given instructions and assigned the necessary responsibilities. Having given advice to focus on ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) coordinating the artificial insemination program with the involvement of the private sector as well (ii) solving the problems related to the program currently implemented by the government and (iii) solving the problems related to the employees recruited to the government under the contract basis, the Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to send the Committee a report containing information about raising awareness among/entrusting responsibilities to the 9 Provincial Departments by August 07, 2023. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of the letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |
| 05. | <p><u>Formulation of National Policy on increasing Milk Production</u></p> | <p>The committee inquired about the fact that only 40% of the country's daily liquid milk requirement is produced in the country. Ministry officials stated that although the production of liquid milk in the country has grown annually during 2009-2018, the annual demand for liquid milk has also grown at a comparatively higher rate, due to which foreign products have entered the market. Also, the ministry officials stated that a program has been started as of now to develop 15,000 dairy farms of 100 liter milk yield in order to develop the traditional small-scale dairy farmers to the entrepreneurial level.</p> <p>Having paid attention to the matters presented regarding this matter during the committee meeting held on 21st July 2016, the Committee further questioned the plans and measures adopted by the department to increase milk production.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>There, the Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture that</p> <p>(i) a report containing the appointment letters of the committee members currently appointed to prepare the national policy for increasing milk production by the Ministry and the composition of the committee be submitted to the Committee before 19th July 2023</p> <p>(ii) a report which includes the date of submission of the prepared National Plan to the Cabinet be given to the Committee before 07th August 2023</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of the letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |
| <p>06.</p> | <p><u>Artificial insemination of goats being at a low level annually</u></p> | <p>The fact that artificial insemination of goats being at a low level annually was brought to the attention of the committee. The Committee advised</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer to spread natural breeding of goats, if the method is successful and to look into the factors that has led to the decrease in demand for artificial insemination if the method is more successful than the natural breeding method.</p> |
| 07. | <p><u>The project on rearing selected heifers born through artificial insemination</u></p> | <p>The committee inquired into the fact that animal registration activities of this project have decreased annually and whether the funds have been properly used for the concerned project although allocations have been made to the provincial councils.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to provide a report containing statistics on the entire program being implemented for this.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of the letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>08.</p> | <p><u>The fact that the imported goats in the state-owned breeding centers of Imbulandanda and Thelahera suffered from diseases , died during and after the quarantine period and many of the offspring they gave birth o died</u></p> | <p>The committee also drew attention to the fact that the department should take steps on the deterioration of the health of these animals and as to whether proper measures and importcontract conditions have been prepared for the importation of animals. The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the animals were imported after obtaining the quarantine certificate from Australia, and the quarantine period was not mentioned in the prepared agreement.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture that a formal investigation in this regard be conducted and a full report thereof be referred to the Committee, and if any inefficiency or negligence is proved on the part of the officials who went abroad in connection with the importation of these animals ,and the officials of the Technical Evaluation Committee, at least a warning letter indicating the fault be included in their personal files and a report in this regard be submitted to the committee.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of letter number SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |
| 09. | <p><u>Decline in chick production at Central Poultry Research Station, Karandagolla</u></p> | <p>The committee observed that the production of chicks has gradually decreased from 2018 to year 2022. The officials stated that they decided to reduce the number of animals here as they were unable to operate the incubator properly and could not obtain animal feed due to problems including fuel and electricity crisis.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to submit it a report on the decline in the production of chicks before 03rd October 2023.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| 10. | <p><u>Decrease in student registration for academic activities in schools of Animal Husbandry in Karandagolla and Seppukulam, students dropping out of courses and lack of academic staff.</u></p> | <p>Officials said that these institutes are not functioning at full student capacity, the courses receive a large number of applications and students leave the course for other courses during the period of the course.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>As the relevant training is provided without any charge, the Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to inquire about the possibility of entering into an agreement when registering students and make the necessary arrangements.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Non-payment of dues to Government by officers who have gone abroad for study / duty / various programmes</u></p> | <p>The committee stated that even though it is the right of any person to go abroad, if the government bears the cost for it, the relevant person must in return render his service for the country.</p> |

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| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture that a report which includes the names of the officials who have gone abroad for study /duty /various programmes and did not return to Sri lanka, the names of the officials who signed their contracts and the information on the recovery of money due to the government be submitted, the secretaries to the ministries to which the officials who signed the agreements belong be informed of the matter and the possibility of recovering the money from their monthly salaries be looked into, and that action be taken to remove the officers who have stayed abroad beyond the approved period contrary to the circulars issued by the government.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| <p>12.</p> | <p><u>Cases of Non-reporting to work back in connection with employees who have gone abroad</u></p> | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee emphasized the need to make aware the secretaries to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies and the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to issue a general circular, having taken into account the issues that have arisen in connection with the employees who have gone abroad and not reported back to work, and having consulted the Attorney General as well.</p> <p>A report on the above matter has been submitted to the Committee by way of the letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> |
| <p>13.</p> | <p><u>The Committee's attention was also drawn to the fluctuation of egg and meat prices during the year.</u></p> | <p>In this regard, the Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the price of meat remains relatively stable, and the import of chickens for laying eggs in 2022 could not be done properly until August, and the fact that the import of that year being 50% of the total requirement led to the increase of the price of eggs.</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>It was further stated that it is normal for egg and meat prices to rise in December of the year.</p> |
| 14. | <p><u>Expanding the service provided by the island-wide veterinary offices</u></p> | <p>The committee questioned regarding the process of coordinating the veterinary Offices by the Department of Animal Production and Health.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the administration of the 337 veterinary offices in Sri Lanka are taken under the Provincial Councils and that his department summons them and discuss with them once in 3 months about research work and planning, project preparation etc.</p> <p>Having stated that it intends to summon the directors of the 9 provinces and the Department of Animal Production and Health on a same day in future, the Committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture that a suitable targeted programme to obtain specific numerical information about the livestock in the area belonging to the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
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| | | provincial departments and veterinary offices at the regional level and to fulfil the role and increase the organizational/employee productivity of veterinary officers be prepared, the relevant targets for the purpose be given, necessary circulars and instructions be issued to the Directors of the 9 provinces, those offices be monitored constantly and special attention be paid on rendering the expected service from the Department and the Committee be informed thereof. |
| 15. | <u>Payment of a price above the market price in the purchase of over 100,000 doses of vaccine for foot-and mouth disease.</u> | The Committee observed that an excess amount of 3.9 million rupees has been paid in this purchase mentioned in 3.7(a)(v) of the Auditor General's report relating to the year 2020. The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that since only one bidder came forward, the purchase was made for that amount. Having stated that the former Chief Accountant of the Department had also pointed out the facts in writing, the Committee observed that this matter has not been discussed in the Audit Management Committee of the Department. |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to submit a report to the Committee regarding this overpayment.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report on the above matter to the Committee by way of letter No.SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023.</p> |
| 16. | <p><u>Non-availability of medicines required for animal diseases in some areas</u></p> | <p>The committee observed that the veterinary offices located in some areas do not have the medicines required for animal diseases.</p> <p>The Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that in cases of outbreak of epidemic diseases, the necessary vaccines are provided free of charge by the central government, the vaccines required for epidemic diseases are made in this country and there is a shortage of medicines at the provincial level for the common animal diseases.</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture to obtain reports from all the 9 provincial departments (on the recommendations of the provincial directors) in this regard and send a report on the requirement of animal medicine in the respective provinces to the committee by July 25, 2023.</p> <p><u>Answers</u> A brief explanation on the above matter has been received through letter No. SML/03/03/17/2021 dated 29.07.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, and it has been informed that a full report will be submitted to the committee in the future.</p> |
| <p>17.</p> | <p><u>Vaccination of pets through veterinary offices and whether personal charges are levied for the purpose during office hours</u></p> | <p>The committee questioned on the vaccination of pets through veterinary offices, whether a personal charge is levied for the purpose and whether such charges are credited to a government fund.</p> <p>The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that charges are levied in different ways as per the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | | <p>powers of each provincial council, but the money thus charged is credited to a government fund, and the efforts made to adapt this process to a single system were futile.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered that this process be adapted to the same system in all the provincial councils, including the determination of fees for this service.</p> |
| <p>Examination of the current performance, problems and improvements of the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS)</p> <p>Date of Examination : 07 July 2023</p> | | |
| <p>Institutions Summoned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Education ❖ Information and Communication Technology Agency ❖ University of Moratuwa ❖ Ministry of Education, Information Technology and Cultural Affairs, Sabaragamuwa Province ❖ Sabaragamuwa Provincial Department of Education | | |
| 01. | <p><u>Issues in practical use of National Education Management Information System (NEMIS)</u></p> | <p>The committee stated that it is appropriate to appoint committees consisting of officials such as principals, regional education directors to represent various provinces and</p> |

| | <p>Key matters discussed</p> | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-operation of a centralized information system that can be used for administrative decision-making in the Ministry of Education • The fact that the facility of obtaining information related to the determination of the number of teachers to be deployed in a school according to the number of students being absent in this system. • Absence of a detailed software requirements specification (SRS) document and user manual. | <p>zones and discuss practical problems and find solutions. The committee stated that it is appropriate to appoint committees consisting of officials such as Principals and Zonal Directors of Education representing various provinces and zones and discuss practical problems and find solutions.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The committee ordered the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Education that a steering committee be appointed with the participation of the University of Moratuwa and other relevant parties and a report which includes the responsibilities and dates related to the implementation of the National Education Management Information System be submitted to the committee within one month.</p> <p>The relevant report has been given by way of the letter No. ED/14/DMISD/21/08 dated 18.08.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Education.</p> |
| <p>02.</p> | <p><u>The constructive performance of the "Sipthathu" Education</u></p> | <p>It was revealed that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the "Sipthathu Education Information System" is prepared and maintained |

| | Key matters discussed | <p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p> |
|--|---|---|
| | <p><u>Information System implemented by the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Department of Education in relation to the same province</u></p> | <p>voluntarily by teachers in Sabaragamuwa province; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this data system, which includes teachers’ and students’ data, can be used constructively for administrative decision-making. <p>It was mentioned here that the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) has given recommendations to refer the National Education Management Information System to the necessary testing stages and to ensure the validity of the data. The officials representing the Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that it would be appropriate to develop a integrated system plan that includes teacher and student data, and the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Education stated that negotiations are ongoing for the purpose.</p> <p><u>Recommendations / Directives</u></p> <p>The Committee ordered the Information and Communication Technology Agency to negotiate with the Secretary to the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Ministry of Education and obtain the necessary information including the capacity of the</p> |

| | Key matters discussed | - Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO) -Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| | | <p>"Siptathu" education data system, data protection methods, information related to software designing, and the data storage method and submit a technical report within a month (before 07.08.2023) on the possibility of improving this data system so that it can be used for the educational needs of other provinces as well .</p> <p>The relevant report has been given by way of the letter No. ICTA/CEO/2023-135 dated 25.08.2023 of the Chief executive Officer of the Information and Communication Technology Agency.</p> |

Annexures

Annexure 01

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- Meeting to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations in the interim report tabled in Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the Committee on Public Accounts to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve the collection and improvement of government revenue by utilizing effective information technology systems (Parliamentary Publication Series No. 118)
- Meeting to review the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information technology systems
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