

Head-323 Department of Legal Affairs

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Unqualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statement of the Department of Legal Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2018 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended, was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018. The summary report including my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Department of Legal Affairs was issued to the Accounting Officer on 30 May 2019 in terms of Sub-section 11 (1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Detailed Annual Management Audit Report in terms of Section 11 (2) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 was issued to the Accounting Officer on 30 May 2019. This report will be tabled in Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (6) of the Constitution to be read in conjunction with Section 10 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Department of Legal Affairs as at 31 December 2018, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

1.2 Basis for Unqualified Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe

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

1.3 Responsibilities of Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer for the Financial Statements

Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As per Sub-section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Department is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared.

As per Sub-section 38 (1) (c) of the National Audit Act, the Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer shall ensure that effective internal control system for the financial control of the Department exists and carry out periodic reviews to monitor the effectiveness of such systems and accordingly make any alterations as required for such systems to be effectively carried out.

1.4 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or

in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accounting Officer regarding, among other matters, significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

1.5. Report on Other Legal Requirements

I express the following matters in accordance with Section 6 (d) of National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

- (a) Since there was no need to prepare financial statements for the preceding year, it could not be stated that the financial statements presented for the year under review were consistent with the preceding year.
- (b) Since there was no requirement for the Department of Legal Affairs to prepare financial statements for the preceding year, recommendations on the financial statements had not been made.

1.6 Comments on Financial Statements

1.6.1 Reconciliation Statement on the Advances to Public Officers Account.

The following observation is made

Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comments of the Accounting Officer
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Without being disclose the incorrect entries made in the Departmental documents by control accounts, errors had been committed.	In making corrections, entries should be properly made in the relevant documents.	Audit observations are accepted and action will be taken to correctly prepare the same in the year 2019.

1.6.2 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

The following observation is made.

Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations	Observations Non-compliance	Recommendation	Comments of the Accounting Officer
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Paragraph 07 of the Circular No.MF/CG/02/Cir dated 28 June 2017 of the Secretary to the Treasury.	Information relating to the purchasing made and disposals carried out by each entity had not been submitted to the Comptroller General Office at the end of relevant quarter.	Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions in Circular.	It is informed that in the audit observation is accepted and action will be correctly taken in the year 2019.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Expenditure Management

The following observation is made

Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comments of the Accounting Officer
----- In the preparation of expenditure estimates, attention had not been drawn on the Financial Regulation 50 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and as such, provisions ranging from	----- In the preparation of estimates more accuracy should be ensured taking into consideration prevailing conditions.	----- Due to not arising requirement for incurring expected maintenance expenditure, control of expenditure and not arising staff training requirements, provisions had been saved.

24 per cent to 35 per cent of the relevant net provisions of a Capital Object and 02 Recurrent Objects had been saved.