

Report of the Auditor General on Head 203 - Department of Christian Religious Affairs

- Year 2015

Head 203- The audit of the Appropriation Account and the Reconciliation Statements including the financial records, books, registers and other records of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2015 was carried out in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Management Audit Report for the year under review was issued to the Director of the Department on 25 July 2016. The audit observations, comments and findings on the accounts and reconciliation statements were based on a review of the Accounts and Reconciliation Statements presented to audit and tests of samples of transactions. The scope and extent of such review and tests were such as to enable as wide an audit coverage as possible within the limitations of staff, other resources and time available to me.

1.2 Responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer on the Accounts and Reconciliation Statements

The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer are responsible for the maintenance, preparation and fair presentation of the Appropriation Account and the Reconciliation Statements in accordance with the provisions in Article 148,149, 150 and 152 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, other Statutory Provisions, and Public Finance and Administrative Regulations. The responsibility includes, designing, implementing, maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of Accounts and Reconciliation Statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

2. Accounts

2.1 Appropriation Account

Total Provision and Expenditure

The total net provision made for the Department amounted to Rs.149.49 million and out of that Rs.146.54 million had been utilized by the end of the year under review. Accordingly, the savings out of the total net provision made for the Department had been Rs.2.95 million or 1.97 per cent. Details are as follows.

Expenditure	As at 31 December 2015			Savings as a percentage of Net Provision
	Net Provision	Utilization	Savings	
	Rs. Million	Rs. Million	Rs. Million	
Recurrent	125.28	123.04	2.24	1.79
Capital	24.21	23.50	0.71	2.93
Total	149.49	146.54	2.95	1.97

2.2 Advances to Public Officers Account

Limits Authorized by Parliament

The limits authorized by Parliament and actual values of the Advances to the Public Officers Account under Item No.20301 of the Department are given below.

Expenditure		Receipts		Debit Balance	
Maximum Limit	Actual	Minimum Limit	Actual	Maximum Limit	Actual
Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Million	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions
2.21	1.21	0.70	0.74	6.50	3.41

2.3 General Deposit Account

The balance of Rs.3,950 existed in the Deposit Account bearing No.6000/0000/00/0015/085/000 under the Department as at 31 December 2015.

2.4 Audit Observation

According to the Financial Records and Books for the year ended 31 December 2015, it was observed that subject to the audit observations appearing in paragraph 1.1 of the management Audit Report, the Appropriation Account and the Reconciliation Statements of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs have been prepared satisfactorily. The material and important observations out of the observations included in the Management Audit Report appear in paragraph 3.

3. Material and Important Audit Observations

3.1 Non- maintenance of Registers and Books

Audit test checks observed that the Department had not been maintained the following registers in a proper and updated manner.

Type of Register	Relevant Regulation
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(a) Security Register	Financial Regulation 891(1)
(b) Register of Losses	Financial Regulation 110

3.2 Appropriation Account

Budget Variances

Provisions ranging from 6 per cent to 100 per cent had been saved out of the net provision relating to 11 Expenditure Objects after the utilization of provisions by the end of the year as overprovision had been made.

3.3 Reconciliation Statement on Advances to Public Officers Account

According to the Reconciliation Statement of the Advances to Public Officers Account bearing Item No.20301 the outstanding balance remained for periods from 1 to 6 years as at 31 December 2015 totalled Rs.49,176. The Department had failed to recover same even by 31 December 2015.

3.4 Good Governance and Accountability

3.4.1 Audit and Management Committee

Audit and Management Committee meetings had not been held for the year 2015 by the Department.

3.4.2 Annual Performance Report

Even though the Performance Report should be tabled in Parliament within 150 days after the close of the financial year by the Department in terms of the Public Finance Circular No.402 of 12 September 2002, the Annual Performance Report for the year under review had not been tabled in Parliament even by 15 June 2016.

3.5 Non- compliances

Non- compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

Even though ad- hoc sub imprests could be provided only to Staff Grade Officers in terms of Financial Regulation 371(2), ad- hoc sub imprests totalling Rs.206,500 had been provided to non- Staff Grade Officers in 11 instances.

3.6 Performance

Observations on the progress of the Ministry in terms of the Annual Budget Estimate and the Action Plan are as follows.

3.6.1 Key functions not executed adequately

The following observations are made.

- (a) Even though provisions of Rs.2,850,000 had been made for infrastructure facilities of Dhamma schools, provisions totalling Rs.1,623,200 had been utilized therefor. As such, 43 per cent out of the provisions made or provisions of Rs.1,226,800 had not been utilized therefor.
- (b) Prior estimates had been prepared to provide provisions for 18 Dhamma schools in 7 appellations. However, provisions had not been made to those Dhamma schools under development assistance for the year 2015.

3.7 Transactions of Contentious Nature

A grant amounting to Rs.500,000 for the appointment of the new Bishop of the Trincomalee Estate had been provided and bills amounting to Rs.86,120 had been reimbursed by cash not relating to that function.

3.8 Losses and Damages

The loss amounting to Rs.33,155 occurred by an accident caused to a van on 18 August 2015 had not been recovered and it had not been stated in Form DGSA 07 of the Appropriation Account.

3.9 Human Resources Management

Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre

The position of cadre as at 31 December 2015 was as follows.

Category of Employees	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Number of Vacancies
(i) Senior Level	03	02	01
(ii) Tertiary Level	01	–	01
(iii) Secondary Level	56	34	22
(iv) Primary Level	07	05	02
Total	67	41	26