

**Report of the Auditor General on Head 304- Department of Meteorology- Year 2016**

-----

The audit of the Appropriation Account and Reconciliation Statements including the financial records, books, registers and other records on the Head 304 Department of Meteorology for the year ended 31 December 2016 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 General of the Department on 18 August 2017. 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 the 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**

-----

**(a) Total Provision and Expenditure**

-----

The total net provision made for the Department amounted to Rs.341.50 million and out of that Rs.306.87 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.34.63 million or 10.14 per cent. Details appear below.

Expenditure	As at 31 December 2016			Savings as a percentage of Net Provision
	Net Provision	Utilization	Savings	
	Rs. Millions	Rs. Millions	Rs. Millions	
Recurrent	268.30	256.09	12.21	4.55
Capital	73.20	50.78	22.42	30.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>341.50</b>	<b>306.87</b>	<b>34.63</b>	<b>10.14</b>

## 2.2 Advances to Public Officers Account

### Limits Authorized by Parliament

The limits authorized by Parliament for the Advances to Public Officers Account Item No.30401 of the Department and the actual amounts are given below.

Expenditure		Receipts		Debit Balance	
Maximum Limit	Actual	Minimum Limit	Actual	Maximum Limit	Actual
Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions
11.00	6.84	6.00	9.18	70.00	29.59

## 2.3 General Deposit Accounts

The total of the balances 04 Deposit Accounts under the Department of Meteorology as at 31 December 2016 amounted to Rs.8.91 million. Details appear below.

Deposit Account Number	Balance as at 31 December 2016
	Rs. Millions
6000/0000/00/0001/0112/000	0.22
6000/0000/00/0002/0156/000	0.05
6000/0000/00/0013/0109/000	0.24
6000/0000/00/0016/0100/000	8.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.91</b>

## 2.4 Audit Observation

-----

The Appropriation Account and Reconciliation Statements of the Department of Meteorology for the year ended 31 December 2016 had been prepared satisfactorily subject to the Audit Observations appearing in the Management Audit Report referred to in paragraph 1.1 above. The material and significant Audit Observations out of the Audit Observations included in that Management Audit Report appear in paragraph 3.

## 3. Material and Significant Audit Observations

-----

### 3.1 Non- maintenance of Registers and Books

-----

It was observed at the audit test checks that the following registers had not been maintained by the Department.

Type of Register	Relevant Regulation
-----	-----
(i) Attendance Registers of the Procurement Committee and of the Technical Evaluation Committee	Guideline 2.11.2 of the Government Procurement Guidelines
(ii) Register of Electric Equipment	Financial Regulation 454(2)
(iii) Register of Liabilities	Financial Regulation 214

### 3.2 Reconciliation Statement on Advances to Public Officers Account

-----

It was observed at the audit test check carried out in respect of the Reconciliation Statement as at 31 December 2016 on Advances to Public Officers Account Item No.30401 that loan balances totalling Rs.146,072 remained recoverable from two officers who vacated from service in the years 1999 and 2010 and from an officer who retired in the year 2014. Action had not been taken relating to the aforesaid loan balances in terms of Sections 4.2.1, 4.2.4, 4.2.5 and 4.5 of Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code.

### **3.3 Assets Management**

-----  
Action had not been taken to acquire the right of the lands relating to 13 Regional Offices maintained by the Department.

### **3.4 Performance**

-----  
Observations on the progress of the Department in terms of the Budget Estimate of the year 2016 are given below.

#### **(a) Doppler Radar System**

-----  
The Government had decided to invest a maximum sum of Rs.400 million for the establishment of a Doppler Radar System by a Budget Proposal in the year 2006. A sum of Rs.320 million had been deposited in the Trust Fund of the World Meteorological Organization, by the Government of Sri Lanka for the purchase of this machine in the years 2007 and 2008. An agreement had been entered into with the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau by the Department, on 12 March 2010 in this connection for the construction of a Tower at Deniyaya area with a height of 23 meters and of a 50 meters access road costing Rs.60.45 million.

The following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) The experiment carried out in Alabama in the United States of America in the year 2010 relating to this Radar System had failed. However, even though the World Meteorological Organization and the relevant Radar Specialist had certified that the second experiment is successful, a representation of the Department had not been made in this connection.
- (ii) The contract for the construction of a Tower on top of the Deniyaya, Gongala Mountain for the installation of the Doppler Radar System had to be completed on 27 August 2010 by the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau. However, the date that the work should be completed had been changed from time to time and the activities of properly handing over had not been carried out even by 14 June 2017.
- (iii) The insurance cover amounting to Rs.142.68 million obtained from the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation relating to the activities of transporting and the installation of equipment had been matured on 31 March 2014 and the Department had not taken action either to extend its date or to obtain a new insurance cover.

- (iv) Eight goods valued at Rs.9.15 million had been stolen by external parties by 29 January 2016 and investigation activities had not been wind up even by 14 June 2017. It had been failed to find the stolen goods even by the end of the year under review.
- (v) Even though the Radar System had been installed in the year 2014, any use whatsoever had not been taken from the machine on not installing the Radar System, which had been received to Sri Lanka in the year 2011, even by the year 2013 and it being stored from a long period of time. As such, parts of this machine had been shipped again to the manufacturing company in the United States of America by 21 April 2017 and an additional expenditure of Rs.5.64 million had been incurred in this connection.
- (vi) The supplier had agreed to repair the Radar System by utilizing a sum of US Dollar 1,428,841 which remained further saved in the Trust Fund of the World Meteorological Organization by 31 May 2015.

**(b) Automatic Meteorological Equipment System**

-----  
Steps had been taken within the period of the year 2008- 2009 for the establishment of an Automatic Meteorological Equipment System in compliance with the criteria of the World Meteorological Organization instead of the Mercury- Containing Equipment utilized by the Department of Meteorology for obtaining meteorological information. A Grant amounting to Rs.570 million had been received from The Japan International Cooperation Agency relating thereto. Even though it had been targeted to establish 38 Automated Meteorological Centres islandwide under this programme, 37 centres had been established excluding Trincomalee by the end of the year under review. The following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) Even though it was intended to obtain meteorological data every 10 minutes from each centres by this system, the meteorological information that should be received from the Data Logger had not been received from the centres placed in the areas of Batticaloa, Pottuvil, Malimbada, Thawalama, Colombo and Sirikandura.
- (ii) According to the information received, a situation that the meteorological information that was planned to obtain from the Satellite could not be obtained had been arisen due to that Satellite, which was connected with this system, being deviated from the axis of the Earth.
- (iii) This system remained being inoperative from time to time from its initial stage. The maintenance expenditure had been increased due to these equipment being frequently subjected to repairs. A sum of Rs.73.12 million had been spent within the period of 2011- 2016 for the maintenance of this system.
- (iv) It had been a mandatory requirement to maintain the Automated Meteorological Information System by blending the procedure used in present for obtaining more accurate meteorological information, with the modern technology by updating and with

efficiency. Sufficient action had not been taken by the Department to establish a procedure to maintain this system sustainably.

**(c) Meteorological Centres and the Operation of the Rainwater Monitoring Centres**

The following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) Twenty- two Meteorological Centres had been established islandwide under the Department and even older equipment remained among the equipment used in those centres. According to the information made available to audit, it was revealed that meteorological equipment such as the Thermograph, Pluviograph, Barograph and the Anemometers remained inoperative. The use of old equipment by repairing them from time to time, spending time for the repair of those equipment, difficulty in supplying parts of equipment, the Department not having a reserve of equipment and the insufficiency of resources had been the main reason relating thereto.
- (ii) Five hundred and twenty- one Rainwater Monitoring Centres belonging to the Department remains scatted islandwide and 51 Rainwater Monitoring Centres remained inoperative by the end of May 2017.

**3.5 Human Resources Management**

**Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre**

The position on the cadre as at 31 December 2016 had been as follows.

Category of Employees	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Number of Vacancies
(i) Senior Level	54	47	7
(ii) Secondary Level	29	08	21
(iii) Tertiary Level	238	187	51
(iv) Primary Level	139	117	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>101</b>

Even though it had been an essential factor to maintain a staff with a specialized knowledge for increasing the performance of the Department, it was observed that posts of the Senior Level of the Deputy Director of Meteorology and the Meteorologist and a post of the Secondary Level of the Telecommunication and Radar Technical Officer (Special Grade), remained vacant from the years 2012 and 2013 and from the year 2014 respectively. Moreover, the post of the Tertiary Level of the Meteorological Reviewer remained vacant from the year 2011.