Head 225 - Sri Lanka Police

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Sri Lanka Police for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020 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. In terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the summary report including my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Sri Lanka Police was issued to the Accounting Officer on 12 August 2021. In terms of Section 11(2) of the National Audit Act, the Annual Detailed Management Audit Report relating to the Sri Lanka Police was issued on 30 July 2021 to the Accounting Officer. This report is submitted to Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which should be read in conjunction with provisions of Section 10 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Sri Lanka Police as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibility, under those standards is further described in the Auditor's Responsibility 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 qualified opinion.

1.3 Responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer on the Financial Statements

The Chief Accounting Officer and the 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 in terms of Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for such internal control as the Chief Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As per Section 16 (1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the Sri Lanka Police 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 of the Commission.

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

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

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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 judgement and maintain professional skepticism 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 Sri Lanka Police'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 (1) (d) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, I state the followings:

- The financial statements of the year under review are consistent with the preceding year. (a)
- (b) Recommendation made by me in relation to the financial statements related to the preceding year had been implemented.

1.6 **Comments on Financial Statements**

1.6.1 **Accounting Deficiencies**

classification

necessary adjustments.

The following observations are made.

(a) Reconciliation Statement on the Advances to Public Officers Account

Audit Observation

identify that difference and to make

that

The balance as per the Advances to As steps were taken by annually Public Officers Control Account as of identifying 31 December was Rs. 885,556,999 difference is gradually receding and the total of the individual balance from the year 2015. Rs. 805,583,741. Accordingly, a difference of Rs. 79,973,258 was observed. No action had been taken to

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

defects,

the

Action should be taken the to identify the differences in the balances and to settle

them.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Audit Observation

The value of the Property, Plant and Equipment in the Statement of Non-Financial Assets ACA-6 submitted together with the financial statements year the 2020 was 26,160,839,028 and that value as per the Treasury Assets Record as at 31 December 2020 was 41,946,843,876. Accordingly, a difference of Rs. 15,786,004,848 was observed.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

Action will be taken to correct this error in the year 2020.

The relevant reasons behind these differences should be discovered and corrections should be made expeditiously.

Certification to be made by the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer (c)

Audit Observation

In terms of provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018, the Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer should ensure that an effective internal control system for the financial control is prepared and maintained in the Ministry 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. According to Section 38 (2) of the Act, the review to be carried out by the Chief Accounting Officer Accounting Officer shall be in writing and copies of the same should be made available to the Auditor General. Nevertheless, the statement indicating that such a review had been carried out was not made available to audit.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

An effective internal control system has been established for financial control and action has been taken to make necessary alterations based on the matters revealed by the internal audit reports of the sub accounting units conducted in that connection. Further, audit and management committees have been conducted and action has been taken to review the internal control system and to make necessary changes accordingly.

Action should be taken in terms of Section 38 of the National Audit No.19 of 2018.

2. **Financial Review**

2.1 **Management of Expenditure**

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

Arrears of Rates relating to 78 buildings in the Kandy Police Division was Rs.2.37 million of which, the Rates in arrears for the building in which the Kandy Police Station and the Police Division Office are located were Rs. 1.83 million.

Action will be taken to obtain Arrears outstanding bills, forward them for approval and to pay the arrears expeditiously.

Rates of should be settled expeditiously.

2.2 **Incurring Liabilities and Commitments**

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

In terms of Section 2 (d) of the State Accounts Circular No.255/2017 dated 27 April 2017, no commitments shall be incurred for the services and supplies unless there are annual estimate provisions for that purpose. Nevertheless, commitments totaling Rs. 150,180,228 had been incurred in excess of the provisions for 10 Objects comprising Rs. 16,133,896 for 05 Recurrent Objects and Rs. 134,046,332 for 05 Capital Objects during the current year.

Commitments have incurred with bona fides in excess of the limits of provisions in respect of essential expenses needed for the continuous maintenance of necessary services of the people.

been Commitments should not be incurred in excess of the limits of provisions.

2.3 Issuance and Settlement of Advances

Audit Observation

Officer

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation

Although there was no unsettled balance as at 31 December 2020 as per the departmental books and Treasury books, there was a payment of Rs.500 million made by the Buildings Division in the year 2019 to purchase homes from the Nila Sevana scheme at Habaraduwa and advance of Rs. 85.68 million paid for the construction projects and those amounts had not been settled.

A sum of Rs.500 million has been paid as advances to purchase 192 housing units. As the seller had not completed constructions on the due date, the buildings were not accepted

Action should be taken to settle advances.

2.4 Deposit Balances

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

A sum of Rs. 11,503,192 provided by India in 2013 to construct SAARC Terrorist and Drugs Offences Monitoring Desk had been retained in the Deposit Account for more than a period of 07 years without being used for the relevant purpose.

A sum of Rs. 11,503,192 provided As it is needed to set up a new safety by India in 2013 to construct data base, money has been deposited SAARC Terrorist and Drugs in the deposit account.

Provisions should be used for the relevant purpose.

3. **Operating Review**

3.1 **Failure to Discharge Functions**

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

The establishment of "National (a) Police Academy Fund" relating to the "Financial" activities included in Part V of the National Police Academy Act No. 44 of 2011 and relevant activities stated in the paragraphs from 22 to 28 had not been carried out.

It has been decided to allocate provisions required to establish this Fund by the budget, 2021.

The "Fund" should be established and action should be taken in accordance with the relevant terms.

Other than the Police Reward (b) there were 61 nonstatutory funds under the Sri Lanka Police and there were cash balances totaling Rs. 103.37 million in those funds and investments in fixed deposits of Rs. 331.93 million as at 31 December 2020. Action in terms of Financial Regulations 876 and 877 had not been taken on funds management, budget, accounting, preparation financial statements and annual performance reports and presentation of those reports relating to these funds.

The Police Welfare Fund is maintained for the welfare of the Police Officers. Action will be taken to legalize this Fund by a Parliamentary Act.

Action should be taken in terms of Financial Regulations.

3.2 Failure to Achieve the Expected Output Level

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation **Officer**

(a) Necessity for emending the Police Ordinance No.16 of 1865 and 16 sectors to be amended had been identified in the year 2014. In order to update the Act, and make amendments in keeping with the present and future social and technological requirements, Cabinet approval had been received on 19 November 2014, whereas the Act had not been amended even by June 2021.

Public representations and proposals have been called for.

The Act should be amended in relation to the identified sectors.

(b) The necessity establishment of a university for the Sri Lanka Police had been Criminal Justice University. identified in 2015 and a land containing 16 acres in Attidiya area had been selected for the proposed university. It had been planned to obtain assistance of the Nottingham and Liverpool Universities in Britain and the Deakin University in Australia for that purpose. Nevertheless, Act required for establishment of University had not been passed even by June 2021.

A Bill has been drafted to establish National Police

Action should be taken to fulfill relevant legal proceedings the establishment of the University.

(c) Although the report of the committee established with the objective of identifying the current deficiencies and weaknesses of the Sri Lanka Police and making proposal for proper update and to make plans for the establishment of sound and efficient police service in the country had been launched as "Police Reformation Action Plan" on 31 May 2017, it had not been implemented up to June 2021.

The Research and Development Division is implementing a number of measures such as conducting studies, making recommendations, identifying the scope and collecting statistics. Identified reformations should be carried out.

(d) Although plans have been made since the year 2014 to establish automated fines payment system for the traffic offence with the objective of expediting the recovery of fines, amount of fines increasing the Government added to Revenue and making it easier for the people to pay the fines, the relevant system has not been established up to date.

Approval of the Committee of Experts was received on 05.05.2021 for the system developed by the ICTA and the planning report including the timeframe has been submitted.

Action should be taken to establish the automated fines payment system to achieve the identified objectives. (e) Although the method of recovery of fines depending on the frequency of committing traffic offences as introduced by the Motor Traffic (Amendment) Act No.10 of 2019 had been implemented from 20 June 2019, the Sri Lanka Police had not implemented a method of computerizing the data identify the frequency committing the same traffic offence by the offenders. As such, it had not been possible to recover the fines from the offenders who committed the same traffic offence on several occasions.

Plans have been drawn implement the process according to the electronic method under the ICTA in the future.

Action should be taken to establish a computer capable database identifying the frequency of committing the same traffic offence by the traffic offenders accordingly recover the prescribed fine.

3.3 **Procurement**

The following matters are observed.

Audit Observation

(a) While refusing payment of money for 75,000 caps and other charges as per the decision given at the arbitration on 21 January 2017 for the irregularities occurred at the procurement process commenced in the year 2011 relating to the purchase of 75,000 caps at a cost of Rs. 93,455,119 for the police constables and the police sergeants, the Sri Lanka Police had continuously engaged in a action. A court sum of Rs. 191,768,632 and Rs. 45,316.880 were payable for the purchase of these caps and as

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

A proposal for the purchase of Action should be taken 60,000 caps has been submitted to the court with the agreement of the two parties and action will be taken to make the relevant payment soon after the receipt of permission of the court.

to provide the caps to the officers in their needs.

the other charges respectively by August 2020. The court action had not been concluded even by June 2021 and the supplier had demanded that the Sri Lanka Police should bear the warehouse charges, legal charges of the supplier and the disadvantage of increase in the exchange rate.

(b) Having identified the necessity for the purchase of new jeeps for the discharge of police duties, plans had been made to purchase 750 jeeps (inclusive of 150 jeeps for the Special Tasks Force) at a cost of Rs.14,100 million under Indian Line of Credit the according to the Cabinet Decision No. අමප/18/1650/828/10-1 dated 08 August 2018. Although it had been planned to purchase jeeps within 03 years at 250 jeeps each year, the relevant procurement activities had not been completed even by June 2021.

An agreement had been reached to purchase jeeps at 250 each under the 03 stages. Necessary arrangements are being made to call for the bids.

Action should be taken to fulfill the requirement of jeeps.

(c) A sum of Rs. 2.61 million had been paid for the purchase of 180 wooden beds for the Attidiya Police Academy. Items had been procured by carrying out evaluations on incomplete specifications including only the minimum details such as type of wood, length and the width of a bed.

Action will be taken to correct the pointed out shortcomings in the preparation of specifications in the future.

Items should be purchased based on accurate specifications.

3.4 **Assets Management**

The following observations are made.

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Comment of the Accounting Recommendation **Officer**

(a) Four police stations and a holiday resort belonging to the Kandy Police Division are maintained on a land which is not owned by the Sri Lanka Police and acquisition of that property had not been completed even by April 2021.

Action is being taken to acquire Lands should be settled the lands.

expeditiously.

(b) Four floors of the six-storied building constructed at a cost of Rs. 334 million by the end of 2018 for expanding the Police Hospital, Narahenpita remained underutilized even by June 2021.

The building remained underutilized due to insufficient number of staff.

Action should be taken to utilize the underutilized floors of the building.

(c) Although approval of the Cabinet had been granted on 20 June 2017 to transfer the land containing 12 Acres, 01 Rood and 08 Perches situated in Malwana to Sri Lanka Police to establish a Police Academy Centre, the land had not been transferred even by June 2021.

A request has been made to the Surveyor General to carry out the survey to take over the relevant land. After the land is reserved for the Police, acquisitions can be initiated.

This land should be acquired expeditiously as per the Cabinet decision.

(d) A portion land containing 75 acres of the Horana Ellakandewatta Land, the possession of which had been handed over on 28.09.2017 to construct the Police Mounted Division and the Ranaviru Care Centre had not been used for the intended objective. Although a proposal had been made to erect a fence around the land, it had not been implemented.

procurement activities relating to the renovation of the fence are in progress at present.

Action should be taken expeditiously to use the Ellakandewatta Land with 75 acres for the intended purpose.

- (e) A land area of about 02 acres out of A plans have been drawn to the land of 04 acres in which the Sapugaskanda Police Station is situated remained underutilized since the year 1981.
- (f) Permission had been received to carry out the constructions of the Peradeniya Police Station on the land where the new police station is located on the agreement of handing over the land that had been provided by the University of Peradeniya on 04 January 1995 to construct the Peradeniya Police Station. Although the land in which the old police station was located had been handed over to the University on 18 December 2019, the land in which the new police station was constructed was not acquired by the Sri Lanka Police even by April 2021.

construct a warehouse of the Inspector General of Police on this land at present.

Action should be taken to use the underutilized land.

A request letter has been Land acquisition referred to the Minister of should activities be Higher Education to acquire expedite. this land.

3.5 **Uneconomic Transactions**

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

Although construction of the Police Advanced Training Academy and the Ingiriya Police Station had been commenced on 19.03.2008 Rs. and spent 8,895,273 by the end of 2018, constructions were discontinued halfway. Also, this land containing 06 acres and had been handed over to the Police in 2008, remained unsettled.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

A portion of the land has to be provided for the proposed Ruwanpura express Further action is proposed to be taken on the receipt of the report regarding the feasibility proceeding of with project.

Action should be taken expeditiously to resume the constructions of the Police Advanced Training Academy and Ingiriya Police the Station that had been abandoned halfway after spending Rs. 8,895,273 for the construction. The land containing 06 acres

(b) For the purchase of 192 houses Not commented. at a cost of Rs. 729,600,000 at the rate of Rs. 3,800,000 per house from the Habaraduwa "Nila Sewana" housing scheme, an agreement had been signed on 29 December 2017. A sum of Rs.500 million had been paid as advances on 05 occasions as at 02 April 2019. The issues regarding properly completion of constructions and taking over of housing units had not been settled even by the end of May 2021.

that had been handed over should be settled immediately.

As a period of 02 years has elapsed form the payment of advances, relevant issues should be expeditiously settled to take over the houses.

3.6 **Management Inefficiencies**

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

(a) According to the reconciliation The statement furnished to audit, the balances that outstanding from 3,267 officers totaled Rs. 74,295,356 by the end of the year under review and the total of loan balances continued to exist for more than 03 years was Rs. 54,829,167.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

total loan balances including a loan balance of remained Rs. 11,005,492 newly added in the year 2020 amounted to Rs. 74,295,356.

Action should be taken recover the to outstanding loan balances.

b) The number of stolen articles that had been published in the Police Gazette III under the Stolen Articles Identification System (SAIS) and could not be still identified totaled 59,118 by the end of the year under review and it included 29,261 foot cycles, 12,493 guns, 10,390 motor vehicles and 6,974 miscellaneous properties. The stolen articles that had been reported by the police stations before 10 years and could not be still identified represented 90 per cent. The number of stolen properties reported as per this identification system was 174 during the year 2020 including 45 motorcycles and 17 three-wheelers and police stations had reported information on the identification of only 03 agricultural equipment. Accordingly, there were delays in reporting information and finding out the stolen properties by the police stations.

Instructions have been given to deal with the instances of reporting the stolen properties but not reported their recovery to the crime record room.

Police Stations should take expeditious actions to provide relevant information.

(c) During the year under review, 595 cases of violence against the were reported women and investigations relating to 376 out of the above incidents were not completed by the end of the year. Most cases had been reported on rapes, causing serious injuries and killings. The number of cases relating to those crimes was 237, 174 and 82 respectively and the percentage of resolving those cases was 41, 37 and 30 per cents respectively. Eighty two homicide cases of women had been reported by the end of the year and 57 cases were further being investigated.

Percentage of resolving the cases should reached to a higher rate at present.

Expeditious steps should be taken to complete investigations on the cases of violence against the women.

(d) A number of 3,162 cases of Percentage of resolving the violence against children had been reported during the year and investigations were yet to be completed on 2,003 cases, or 63 per cent out of the above cases. The highest number of cases reported thereunder were of rape, abductions and serious sexual abuse. The incidence relating to those crimes stood at 1,638, 632 and 615, respectively, and the rate of resolving was as low as 35 per cent, 37 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively. There were reported cases of child homicide and their resolution rate remained at 28 per cent. Further, 9 cases of attempted murder against children were reported during the year and investigations into all 9 cases had not been completed.

cases should reached to a higher rate at present.

Expeditious measures should be taken to resolve crimes against children.

(e) By comparing the data of the Not replied. Crime Division according to the new Methodology for Regulating Information of Arrested Suspects (AMIS), confirmation is made as to whether the persons are wanted for other offenses. According to database of the Crime Division. At the end of the year under review, there were details 152,263 persons in the on database comprising 56,666 registered criminals, 69,762 open warrant holders, 7,657 deserters from the Army, 6,741 deserters from the Air Force and 11,437 deserters from the Navy. Of these, identification of deserters from the Air Force and the Navy as the

The activities of persons whose particulars are included in the AMIS database should be investigated.

suspects was at 25 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively and the identification of registered criminals as the suspects was 13 per cent. Accordingly, as there was a tendency to identify the persons with information included in the database as suspects, there was a need to regulate their activities at the police station level.

- (f) There was no background created Not replied. for imposing legal penalties on drug users and neither the Police Narcotics Bureau nor the police had the equipment to identify such persons.
- (g) In the submission of drug to the Government Analyst's Department for identification, there observed 08 cases on taking time between 03 - 06 months to receive their reports and 70 cases on taking more than 06 months to issue those reports. Therefore, there was an urgent need for a systematic programme for identifying the drugs.
- (h) There were 04 police divisions which had more than 95 fatal accidents and more than 300 accidents with serious injuries in the year 2020 and those divisions the were Anuradhapura, Kurunegala Gampaha, Nugegoda police divisions. Since the number of fatal and serious accidents in these 04 police divisions accounted for more than 20 per cent of the total number of fatal and serious accidents during the period 2018-2020, a formal programme to be had

Not replied.

Answers will be given in due course.

Legislation should be enacted and equipment should be provided to the relevant sectors to bring drug users before the law.

Drugs identification methodology should be expedited.

Measures should taken to minimize the number of fatal and serious accidents police divisions where such accidents are on the increase.

implemented to minimize the number of accidents.

Safety Division had not submitted course. the details of the number of accidents involved in unidentified suspects related to the year 2020 to the audit.

The Traffic Control and Road Answers will be given in due

The report on the accidents involved in the unidentified should be suspects submitted.

(j) The speed limit testing equipment Answers will be given in due Necessary steps should of 06 police stations of the Chillaw Police Division and 02 police stations of Anuradhapura Police Division had been dysfunctional as they were older than 10 years and therefore, cases on speed limit violation had not been filed. Although there were speed limit testing equipment in stations police two Polonnaruwa Division, speed limit cases had not been filed in 2019 and 2020.

course.

be taken to examine the violation of speed limits.

4. **Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals**

Audit Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

Every Public institution should Not replied act in accordance with United Nations "Agenda 2030" Sustainable Development and the Sri Lanka Police had identified 08 targets under 04 Sustainable Development Goals. Although indicators were being developed considering 2016 as the based year, necessary milestones for the regulation of relevant activities to reach the sustainable development goals had not been identified.

Regulations should be done by identifying the necessary milestones.

5. **Human Resource Development**

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

As the recruitment for the (a) post of Women Assistant Superintendent of Police had not been made during the period 2017-2020, fifteen out of the 16 approved posts remained vacant at the end of

the year 2020.

Even after recruiting 23 Sub (b) Inspectors of Police and 06 Sub Inspectors of Women under the new recruitment for the year three thousand hundred and twenty three (3,923) officers had not been recruited to fill the vacancies of 14 posts in the Support Service Staff. This situation had been an impediment to the Sri Lanka Police Medical Division, **Buildings** Division and Information **Technology** Division in carrying out their duties with maximum efficiency.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

_____ Necessary steps are being

taken with the Department of Examinations.

Necessary measures should be taken to fill vacancies.

Scheme of Recruitment and promotion for 34 support service professions have been approved and the filling of vacancies will be carried out the by Apprentice Recruitment Division.

Expeditious measures should be taken to fill the vacancies in the approved staff of the Support Service.

senior level in the Civil Staff, a the relevant divisions to fill fill the vacancies in the post of Assistant Officers in the vacancies. Class III of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, 12 Officers in Class III in the Sri Lanka Accounting Service and 06 vacancies in the post of Administrative Officer of the Public Management Assistant Supra Grade. This situation had been an impediment to the planning, accounting and human resource management activities of the Sri Lanka Police.

(c) There were 14 vacant posts in Letters have been referred to Action should be taken to

Civil Staff.