

**1. Financial Statements**

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**1.1 Qualified Opinion**

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The audit of the financial statement of the District Secretariat, Putlam for the year ended 31 December 2022 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statements 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 District Secretariat, Putlam was issued to the Accounting Officer on 24 May 2023 in terms of Sub-section 11 (1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018. In terms of Section 11 (2) of the Audit Act, the Annual Detailed Management Audit Report relating to the District Secretariat, Putlam was issued to the Accounting Officer on 30 May 2023. This report is presented to Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (6) of the Constitution read in conjunction with 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 District Secretariat of Putlam as at 31 December 2022, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

**1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion**

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My opinion is qualified based on the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report. I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibility for the financial statements are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities Section. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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

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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 provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for the determination of the internal control that 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 District Secretariat of Putlam is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities to enable the preparation of annual and periodic financial statements.

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 District Secretariat

of Putlam 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**

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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 summary 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 and its materiality depends on the influence on economic decisions taken by users 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 skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Appropriate audit procedures were designed and performed to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement in financial statements whether due to fraud or errors in providing a basis for the expressed audit 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.
- An understanding of internal control relevant to the audit was obtained in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District Secretariat's internal control.
- Evaluate the 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.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements including 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**

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I express that the financial statements are consistent with the preceding year in accordance with Section 6 (I) (d) of the National Act No. 19 of 2018.

- (a) The financial Statement are consistent with the preceding year.
- (b) The recommendations made by me on the financial statements of the preceding year had not been implemented relating to following paragraphs.

<b>Reference to the preceding year's para</b>	<b>Recommendation not implemented</b>	<b>Reference to the Para of this report</b>
3.5 (a)	Action should be taken to renovate the quarters in repairing condition and earn the income	3.5 (e)
3.5(b)	Relevant activities should be perform after obtaining the land	3.7(c)
3.7(a)	Action should be taken against the responsible officers after being identified them owing to stop the payment for 14 <sup>th</sup> contact bill without complying to the conditions in the contract agreement, resulting to made additional interest payment for delay period.	3.6(b)
3.8	Relevant recommendations to be given at the feasibility study stage and action should be taken on those recommendations after being matched with accepted standards.	3.7 (g)
3.9 (a)	Action should be taken to recover the overpayments from the responsible officers.	3.6 (a)
3.9 (b)	Relevant action should be taken efficiently	2.1

## **1.6 Comments on Financial Statements**

### **1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies**

Following deficiencies were observed when accounting of Property Plant and Equipment (PPE)

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comments of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) According to the letter of the Director General of State Accounts, No. SA/GFS/01/01/08 – volume and dated 20 December 2022, action should be taken to account the identified lands and buildings belonging to the District Secretariat after being valued them. However, action had not been taken to value and account identified assets, 49 Grama Niladari offices, 06 official quarters, 13 common buildings owned by the Government and a Community Hall that belonged to the District Secretariat, during the year under review.	Action will be taken to account them in the year 2023 after being valued them.	Action should be taken to account the properties after being valued them.

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| (b) | Actions had not been taken to account the value of 11 executive and non-executive official quarters and lands therein which are total extend of 12,693 square foot and related lands thereto total extend of 6.6 acres, 02 roods and 12.7 perches, under the non- financial assets.                                                      | The particulars of the buildings will be sent to the Valuation Department and then account them in the year 2023.                                                                                                             | Assists should be valued and accounted.                             |
| (c) | The land and building belonging to the Divisional Secretariat, which was handed over to the Divisional Secretariat after being used by the Madampe Agrarian Service Council, had not been identified and accounted. As well, this land and building had not been included to the identified assets schedule of the District Secretariat. | The particulars of the buildings will be sent to the Valuation Department and then account them in the year 2023.                                                                                                             | Assists should be valued and accounted.                             |
| (d) | The Boats, an engine, 18 lifesaving jackets, a Mega Phone, 08 Water Tanks, 04 Water Pumps, Tractors and 08 Browsers, which had been handed over to the Divisional Secretariats by the Disaster Management Coordination Unit had not been vested and accounted                                                                            | After obtaining the cost details of the assets which had been handed over by the Disaster Management Coordination Unit to the Divisional Secretariats, action will be taken to account them in 2023.                          | The assists should be accounted after being identified their costs. |
| (e) | Thirteen Tractors and 13 Tailors and 09 Lorry Browsers which were handed over by the National Disaster Relief Service Centre to the Divisional Secretariats had not been taken over and accounted.                                                                                                                                       | Thirteen Tractors and Tailors given by the National Disaster Relief Service Centre will be accounted in the year 2023 and it is informed that action will be taken with regarded to received Lorries after obtaining advices. | The cost of received motor vehicles should be accounted.            |

## 2. Financial Review

### 2.1 Utilization of Provision made available by other Ministries and Departments

Audit Observation	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Under the Government programme for purchasing of paddy through small and medium sized Rice Mill owners graining into rice, a sum of Rs. 100,161,424 had been paid to 14 Mill owners in the Maha season of 20020/21. However, receivable of 422,502kgs equivalent to Rs.32,685,875 as well receivables of 1,006,687 kgs of rice equivalent to Rs. 77,880,000 for the given money to 19 Mill owner during the Yala season in 2021 had not been received up to 30 May 2023.	Based on the Circular instructions given by the Treasury through a Circular, a concession period, up to 30 June 2023, had been granted to settle the advances. Hence, it was informed to the Mill owners to settle the money before that date.	According to the Treasury instructions, necessary actions should be taken effectively.

### 2.2 Non- Compliances with Lawes, Rules and Regulations

Instances of non- compliance with laws, rules and regulations are shown as analysed below

Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations etc.	Observed Value Rs.	Non- compliance	Comment of the Accounting officer	Recommendation
(i) <b>Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka</b>				
Financial Regulation 109	2,384,780	Action had not been taken to recover the losses and damages from responsible officers or write-off from the books relating to accidents happened to 13 motor vehicles of the District Secretariat.	According to the decision made by the Audit and Management Committee, a committee has been appointed and conducting the related activities.	Action should be taken according to the Financial Regulations.

(ii) **Public  
Administration  
Circulars**

- (a) Circular No. 05/2008 dated 06 February 2008 - The Citizens' / Clients' Charter" with necessary revisions should be introduced by all Public Institutions in order to provide the service to general public efficiently, effectively with quality and continuous manner and further to enhance sound understanding and mutual trust among the connected parties, thus it had been informed to implement the instructions of the circular. Even though it was expected to implement the instructions within 06 months, the District Secretariat had not taken actions accordingly. Due to the COVID pandemic situation prevailed in the country during the period of 2020 to 2023, office functions had not been conducted in regular manner. Thus, works had not been conducted according to the citizens' charter. Currently action has been taken to introduced the citizens' charter. Functions should be conducted according to the circular instructions.
- (b) Section 2 of the Circular No. 09/2009 dated 16 April 2009 - Even though it had been instructed that all public officers including Head of the institutions to confirm their arrival and departure to the office by using the finger scanners in all Public Institutions, the officers of Mahawewa, Anamaduwa and Karuwalagaswewa Divisional Secretariats had not confirmed their arrival and departure using the finger scanner machines. Instead, the overtime payments and holiday payments had been made using the information in the attendance register. Even though finger scanning machines were in out of order, it was unable to purchase the machines due to limit of expenditure in the year 2023. The Madampe Divisional Secretariat has up dated the machines up to now and after being granted the authority to incurred capital expenditure, action will be taken to purchase the machines. Prompt action should be taken according to the circular instructions.

- (c) Section 202 of Chapter xviii (volume 1) Procedural Rules of the Public Service Commission published in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 1589/30 dated 20 February 2009 and the Circular No. 18/2001 dated 22 August 2001. - According to Paragraph 2.2.2 of the transfer policy for the public officers of the combined service, the officers those who completed over 5 years' service period should be transferred. However, action had not been taken as per that transfer Procedure with regard to 347 officers those who completed 5-9 years' service period as at 31 December 2022 attached to the Mahakumbukkadawala, Mundalama, Putlam and Karuwalagaswewa Divisional Secretariats. The particulars of the combined service officers those who completed over 5 in years' service period has been forwarded to the Director General of Combined services. Action to be taken to transfer the officers according to the Circular instructions and an internal transfer procedure also apply to transfer the officers internally.

### 3. Operating Review

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#### 3.1 Planning

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#### Audit Observation

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According to Paragraph 3 of the Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020 dated 28 August 2020, an Action Plan had not been prepared. Even though an Integrated Action Plan had been prepared by the District Secretariat for the year under review, a progress report had not been prepared in order to evaluate the progress of the said plan.

#### Comments of the Accounting Officer

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Preparation of a progress report in order to evaluate to progress of the Action Plan had not been prepared for the year 2022 due to a mistake. Instructions has been given to the officers to prepare the progress report for coming years.

#### Recommendation

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Action should be taken according to the circular instructions.

### 3.2 Non-achievement of the Expected Outcome

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The following observations are made

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comments of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) Out of the 15 projects given to the Mundalama Divisional Secretariat under the provisions of the Members of Parliament in the year 2022, 05 projects implemented to preparation of school name boards. The total amount of Rs.3,888,000, Rs.776,000 for each project, had been expended. A sum of Rs. 80,000 for each school, total amount of Rs. 400,000, had been incurred to fixed a name board above the school entrance Board. All of these schools were located in rural areas. Hence there were many needs to fulfil for these schools than the fixing of large school name boards. However, attention had not been drawn to for such priority needs.	The project proposals for those projects had been prepared and approved by the Member of Parliament by himself and amendments to the proposals also done by him. Those projects had been implemented under direct provisions based on the requests made by the respective school Principals.	Attention should be drawn to priority development needs.
(b) Even though construction activities of new office building of the Mundalama Divisional Secretariat had been completed and finalized the payment for construction, action had not been taken to rectified two defects including construction of staircase out of 22 defects identified by the Divisional Secretary.	The identified defects of the new office building of the Mundalama Divisional Secretariat had been included to new estimate. If the provision will be received in the year 2023, the defects will be reconstructed.	When correcting the identified deficiencies in the constructions, action should be taken to recover the losses coursed to the Government from the responsible parties.



- (c) In order to implement a turmeric cultivation project in the year 2022 in 17 Zones in the Naththandiya Divisional Secretariat, a sum of Rs. 1,903,067 had been incurred for 159 beneficiaries by providing Rs. 10,000 worth turmeric seeds and poly sack cultivation bags to each farmer. Due to not conducting of a feasibility study relating to reducing of turmeric prices from Rs,800 - Rs, 1,000 per Kg, in the preceding year, to Rs.180 per Kg and other disaster matters, the turmeric prices had been dropped up to Rs. 60 per kg at the harvesting period. As such, the beneficiaries had earned an income ranging from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 and that amount was not enough to cover the initial cost incurred for turmeric seeds and poly sack bags.
- A feasibility study had been conducted for that turmeric cultivation project and it is informed that the turmeric cultivators had earned an additional income of Rs. 3,053,325 by exceeding initial cost of Rs. 1,903,067.
- Action should be taken furnished the replies to audit with the proven evidence.

### 3.3 Abandonment of Projects without Completing

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Following observations are made

<b>Audit observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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It was observed that out of the funds given to the Grama Shakthi Societies in Madampa, Naththandiya, Anamaduwa and Mundelama Secretariats a total amount of Rs.23,913,494 belonging to 45 Societies had been kept in idle for about 4 years. As well, a total sum of Rs. 9,901,991 belonging to 12 societies in 12 Grama Niladari Reagan's was kept in idle due to not performing of the Societies.	Under the Soubagya Nispadana Bureau the Grama Shakthi Programme is being reactivated again. It is informed that the funds in the non-performing societies will be transferred to the performing societies.	Action should be taken to achieve the project objectives.

### 3.4 Project Implementation Delays

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<b>Audit observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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Four projects which had been commenced and carried out by the Naththandiya Divisional Secretariats about 5 years ago incurring a sum of Rs. 2,969,975, have been abandoned	It is informed that 2 projects out of 4 projects, had been completed up to usable level and the works of the other projects are being conducted	Action should be taken with a view to achieve the expected objectives of the projects.

without obtaining expected benefits. As well, 04 Daham School buildings and a toilet system in a temple which have been commenced and constructed about 05 years ago incurring a sum of Rs. 3,876,375 had not been completed in order to use them for expected purposes.

with a view to get them up to usable condition.

### 3.5 Assets Management

The following observations are made

Audit observation	Comment of the Accounting officer	Recommendation
(a) Even though the Wennappuwa Divisional Secretariat had taken immediate actions only to inform to take necessary actions with regard to the unauthorized functions taken place in the lands use by other Departments, it had not been completed transferring of ownership of those lands, belong to the Central Government, to other Departments. However, follow-up actions had not been taken relating to incidences in order to prepare an annual progress review report.	Immediately after receiving of information relating to the unauthorized activities conducted in the lands, which are controlled by other Departments and lands come under the purview of the Wennappuwa Divisional Secretariat, it is informed to the respective Departments in order to take necessary actions. As well, required supports are extended on their request and for follow-up actions. However, an annual progress evaluation report had not been prepared so far and after obtaining instructions said report will be prepared.	Prompt actions should be taken to protect the lands owned by the Government.
(b) Seven Tractor Browsers provided by the Disaster Management Centre to the Divisional Secretariats of Putlam, Madampe, Dankotuwa, Arachchikattuwa and mundalama had been kept in idle.	The requirements for distribution of water were not occurred. Since, the Browsers had to be kept in idle.	Necessary actions should be taken to protect the Government motor vehicles.
(c) Even though the official residence of the Nathtandiya Divisional Secretary had been repaired incurring a sum of Rs. 1,504,322 in the year 2021, it had not been occupied since many years.	In order to avoid the decaying, the residence had been repaired. With a view to use it in future maintenance activities are conducting.	The official residencies should be used in maximum level while taking action to earned the revenue.

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| (d) | Three official quarters belonging to the Puttalam District Secretariat and valued at R, 9,875,000 had been kept in idle without being utilized from the year 2014 to up to March 2023.                                                                                                                           | Due to not repairing the quarters since long period of time, they have decayed and it was unable to repair the quarters due to not receiving of provisions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The official residencies should be used in maximum level while taking action to earned the revenue.       |
| (e) | When examine the official quarters belonging to the Divisional Secretariats, it was observed that 07 official quarters belonging to Mahakubukkadawala, Anamaduwa, Arachchikattuwa, Nattandiya, Mundalama, Kalpitiya and Chilaw Divisional Secretariats had been kept in idle up to end of the year under review. | The official quarters belonged to Mhakubukkadawala and Anamaduwa Divisional Secretariats have been used as stores , the Arachchikattuwa official quarter has been maintained for future usage, one official quarter belonged to Karuwalagaswewa Divisional Secretariat is in repairing condition, the Naththandiya official quarter has not been used because it close to resident area, the Kalpitiya quarter has be repaired and the Chilaw quarter could not be used due to its located place. | The official residencies should be used in maximum level while taking action to earned the revenue.       |
| (f) | Three browsers belonged to the Wanathawilluwa and Mundalama Divisional Secretariats and to the District Secretariat and two Motor cabs had been become unusable condition due to not taking of actions to repair them for long period of time.                                                                   | After obtaining the misplaced registration certificates, the process for dispose of the assets will be started.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The assets should be garaged with secured manner and unusable motor vehicles should be properly disposed. |

### 3.6 Losses and Damages

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<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comments of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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(a) According to the instructions given by the Engineering Department of the District Secretariat, spot unit rate per gravel cubic meter (including loading cost and royalty) amounting to Rs. 3,000 had been used for purchase of gravels to development works of the Divisional Secretariats. However, according to the Price Committee Report of the District Secretary No. DSP/TFC/CS/01/☉. ஂ/(1)/2021 dated 01 January 2021, it was informed that the spot rate for gravel cubic meter amounted to	The District Price Committee for the year 2021 had been held only for the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of the year. Hence, the purchases had been conducted based on the North Western Provincial price committee decision had been followed for the second half of the year. Thus, no additional payment made.	Action should be taken to recover the over payments from the responsible officers.

Rs. 2,000 including loading cost and royalty). Hence, a loss of Rs. 2,641,300 had been incurred for purchase of 7,482.8 cubic meters or 2641.3 cubs incurring additional cost of Rs. 1,000 per cube, for development activities conducted by 13 Divisional Secretariats for 89 projects.

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| <p>(b) Even though the payment for 14th bill of the construction of main building at the District Secretariat had been rejected, subsequently 14th bill had been paid through an arbitration process with the interest for delay period amounting to Rs. 10,349,580.</p>                                                  | <p>Due to the construction failures, then officers had rejected the payment based on the contract agreement. As such, the negotiation process had to forwarded to an Arbitration Board and based on the decision made by the Board that interest had been paid. The delay interest had to be paid as per the contract agreement.</p>                                      | <p>As per the condition of contact agreement 14<sup>th</sup> bill had to be paid, in such a ground not paying of the bill caused to payment of delay interest. Thus, the responsibility thereon should be determined.</p> |
| <p>(c) Relating to the above matter, an engineer estimate mounting to Rs. 33,770,564 had been certified in order to rectify the revealed construction defects. However, at the arbitration process that estimate had not been taken into account and as a result, a sum of Rs. 18,235,507 was lost to the Government.</p> | <p>According to the Engineering report submitted by the University of Moratuwa, planning defects were not pointed out. A problem in the basement of the foundation was indicated. But comments were not given relating to unsuitably for occupying in the building. Since the building is being used, it is unable to take legal actions against the respective firm.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to recover the losses from the responsible parties.</p>                                                                                                                                         |

**3.7 Management Weakness**

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 Following observations are made

Audit Observation	Comments of the Accounting officer	Recommendation
<p>(a) A sum of Rs. 259,601 had been paid by the Pallama Divisional Secretariat under the development of Local Government zones for the construction of fence at the Adammana Community Hall. According to the final bill, length of the fence was 116 meters. However, as per the physical measurement the length was 106.5 meters. Thus, a sum of Rs. 21,223 had</p>	<p>When get the measurements of the project, a sum of Rs. 21,223 had been over paid to the contractor for 9.5 meters by a mistake. That amount had been recovered after pointing out by audit and explanation had been called from the technical officer.</p>	<p>The project supervision officers collectively responsible.</p>

been over paid for 9.5 meters, Rs. 2,223 per meter. Even though the over payment had been recovered after pointing out by auditors, respective development officers, field officers and project supervision officers those who claimed the travelling and leave payments had not been performed their duties responsible manner.

- (b) Even though it had been ordered to conduct preliminary investigations and issue the charge sheets with a view to conduct formal disciplinary investigations against 5 officers attached to three Divisional Secretariats of the Wennappuwa, Anamaduwa and Arachikattuwa, come under the Putlam District Secretariat, the charge sheets had not been issued to those officers up to date of audit.
- The Charge sheets had been issued to 3 officers and drafted charge sheets related to 5 officers had been furnished to the Ministry.
- Action should be taken to get the charge sheets Sending the reminders.
- (c) The land which is located 08 official residencies, and extend of 01 acres, 02 roods, 14.7 parches, belonged to the Putlam District Secretariat and current estimated value amounting to Rs. 255,800,000 had been vested by the Municipal Council for the construction of proposed Alfa market complex and its motor vehicle park. In turn, a land situated near to the bus depot extend of 01 acers and owned by the Municipal Council had been transferred instead of the above land. As well, the consent given to provide necessary funds to construct 04 official residencies which are equivalent to the market value of existing 08 official residencies, However, before value the residencies, 05 residencies, out of 08 residencies, still in occupied condition, had been removed. As well, the land transferring activities had not been finalized up to March 2023.
- it has been informed to the Putlam Municipal Council through my Letter No. DSP/ADM.4/ DEV/02/10/2 dated 06 April 2023 to finalize the activities as agreed by both parties. As well, instructions have been given to the officers to perform the priority functions.
- Action should be taken to perform the functions as per the plans without delay.

- (d) Nine quarters that belonging to the District Secretariat of Putlam had been given to other State Institutions since 1999 to 2022 period and the receivable monthly rent from 08 quarters had not been recovered up to end of this year. Without being charged rents, the quarters had been given to the Disaster Management Division though they repaired incurring amounting to Rs. 1,280,862 in the year 2022.
- The instructions had been given to the officers to take prompt actions, either to recover rents from the quarters given to other public institutions or to transfer the quarters to respective institutions. A detailed report will be immediately submitted.
- The rent should be charged from the quarters given to other state Institutions.
- (e) Twenty officers those who applied for official quarters since January 2019 were in the waiting list of the Putlam District Secretary's office up to 31 December 2022. However, 07 officers had resided in the quarters up to now though they resided in the quarters more than 5 years.
- Extending of residing period more than 05 years had been suspended from this month.
- Action should be taken according to the circular instructions.
- (f) The retention money totaled amounts of Rs. 5,816,107 and Rs. 36,519,589 related to 18 projects of the District Secretariat and 595 projects implemented by 13 Divisional Secretariats respectively had not been released up to 31 December 2022.
- Due to not receiving of sufficient impress, it was unable to release the retention money. Although impress funds have been requested for the year 2023, the impress not received so far.
- Action should be taken to release the retention money obtaining the Impress.
- (g) In the case of constructing a building, if high tension electricity cables are installed nearby the building, the horizontal and vertical distance to the building and the possible magnetic impact should be taken into account. However, it was observed that without considering the such effects, the Mundalama Divisional Secretariat office building is being constructed. The electricity cables which are installed about distance of 2.5 foot of the building and a request has been made to remove the cables from the Ceylon Electricity Board when constructing the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the building. However, the CEB has requested to pay a sum of Rs.4,023,389 for the job.
- Even though an estimate, amounting to Rs.4,023,989 had been furnished on 06 April 2021, the construction work of the building had been already completed. Hence, the Regional Engineer had informed through the feasibility study report No. වප/හලා/ජරලී/15 dated 25 July 2022 that it is not necessary to remove the electricity lines since it is not influenced to use of the building.
- Acceptable scientific reply should be furnished.

#### 4. Human Resource Management

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Following observations are made

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comments of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Observation</b>
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(a) Twenty-two vacancies were existed in the Putlam District Secretariat relating to 13 approved cadre posts.	Due to the reasons of transfers, retirements, vacated from service, dismissed from the service etc., the vacancies were existed. Action has been taken to inform the particulars of the vacancies to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government. In order to	Action should be taken to fill the existing vacancies and to replace the excess officers to suitable places.
(b) Three hundred and sixteen vacancies were existed in the Divisional Secretariats come under the Putlam District Secretariat relating to 19 approved cadre posts. While 133 excess staff was observed relating to the Development Officers cadre.	obtained the approval for 204 Development Officers posts, it has been referred to the Department of Management Services in terms of F.R 71. Subject to the above pending approval, newly recruited Development Officers in the year 2022, have been replaced to 16 Divisional Secretariats. Hence, there are no excesses in the Development officer's posts.	
(c) Nine the Administration officers' posts, 10 Additional District Registrar posts, 115 Grama Niladari posts and 35 Office Assistance posts were vacant as at 31 December 2022 in 16 Divisional Secretariats of the District.		