

## **Head 232 - Department of Prisons**

### **1. Financial Statements**

#### **1.1. Qualified Opinion**

The audit of the financial statements of the Head 232- Department of Prisons for the year ended 31 December 2023 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, 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 containing my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Department of Prisons was issued to the Accounting Officer on 30 May 2024 in terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. The Annual Detailed Management Audit Report relevant to the Department was issued to the Accounting Officer on 10 July 2024 in terms of Section 11(2) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. This report will be tabled in Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to be 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 Department of Prisons as at 31 December 2023, 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**

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 is 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**

The Accounting Officer is 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 Department 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 Department 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 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 judgments and maintain professional scepticism 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 Department'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

In accordance with Section 6(1)(d) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, I declare the following facts.

- (a) That the financial statements are consistent with the previous year.
- (b) The following recommendations I had made regarding the financial statements related to the previous year had not been implemented.

<b>Reference of the paragraphs in the report related to the preceding year</b>	<b>Recommendation that was Not Implemented.</b>	<b>Reference of the paragraphs in this report</b>
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1.6.1 (a)	There was a difference between the closing balance of non-financial assets of the previous year and the opening balance of non-financial assets in the year under review.	1.6.1 (d)
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1.6.1.(c)	Lack of evidence to substantiate the debtors balance.	1.6.1. (e)
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### 1.6. Comments on the Financial Statements

#### 1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

##### (a) Presentation of Financial Statements

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(i) As per the ACA-2 (iv) and ACA-2 (v) formats included in the financial statements, although the summary of financing of expenses in term of programmes and projects should have noted Rs. 12,569,000,000 as domestic funds and Rs. 2,000,000 as net foreign grants, only Rs. 12,571,000,000 had been shown as net provision under domestic funds.	It has been informed that Rs. 12,569,000,000 should have been recorded under financing number 11 as net provision for domestic funds and Rs. 2,000,000 under financing number 13 for foreign grants, and instructions were provided to the concerned officers to ensure that future financial statements are prepared in a manner that avoids such shortcomings.	Financial statements should be correctly prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of the circulars.

- (ii) Although financing code number under the Object 2509-14 in the expenditure statement included in the ACA-2 (ii) format of the financial statements should have been recorded as 13, it had been shown as 11. It has been informed that the concerned officers were given instructions to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in a manner that avoids such shortcomings in the future. Financial statements should be correctly prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of the circulars.

**(b) Reconciliation Statement on the Advances to Public Officers Account**

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(i) According to the Reconciliation Statement on the Advances to Public Officers "B" Account as at 31 December 2023, the total amount of recoverable individual balances was Rs. 209,493,057. Out of this, excluding the recoverable debt balance of the officers employed in the department, the recoverable debt balance at the end of the year under review amounted to Rs. 11,256,020, of which the value of debt balances exceeding one year was Rs. 7,166,507.	There have been outstanding loan balances related to the Advance "B" Account at the prison headquarters and 29 prison institutions for several years. These balances have been classified into categories of retired, deceased, resigned, interdicted, and dismissed employees. Actions are being taken to recover these outstanding debts in accordance with Section 04 of Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code.	Systematic measures should be implemented to recover outstanding loan balances.
(ii) Under section 3.8.1 in the attachment presented together with the Reconciliation Statement related to the Advances to Public Officers "B" Account indicates an outstanding loan balance of Rs. 401,153 that has persisted for over 03 years. However, it had not been possible to specifically identify which officials should be held accountable for this debt.	As at 31 December 2023, there is an unidentifiable balance of Rs. 401,153 at the Research Development Training Center and the Waripola Prison. Of this amount, Rs. 2,095 relates to the Research Development Training Center, which has been an outstanding loan balance since 2008, making it difficult to identify.	Systematic measures should be taken to promptly identify and recover outstanding loan balances.

**(c) Deposits**

The following deficiencies were observed during the accounting of deposits, payments, and balances related to financial statements.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(i) As of 31 December 2023, there was a balance of Rs. 5,413,490 in the deposit account bearing No. 6000-0-0-006-0-081, intended to be credited to the personal bank accounts of prisoners. Out of this balance, an amount of Rs. 805,661, which is 15%, had continued to exist in the general deposit account for over two years.	Actions are being taken to open bank accounts for prisoners eligible for prison wages, and it is kindly notified to the audit that steps are in progress to expedite the opening of these accounts and to credit the prison wages to the relevant prisoners' bank accounts.	Steps should be taken to credit the prison wages to the prisoners' personal bank accounts without any delays.
(ii) There was a balance of Rs. 4,234,468 in the deposit account bearing No. 6000-0-0-1-16, representing security deposits recovered from officers' salaries as of 31 December 2023. However, actions regarding this amount had not been taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 885, and out of this balance, Rs. 995,603, or 24%, had been retained in the General Deposit Account for over two years.	It has been informed that instructions have been issued to the Superintendents of Prison in all institutions to take necessary actions to properly deal with the security deposits in accordance with Financial Regulation 885 and to promptly open accounts for officers who have not yet opened accounts.	Steps should be promptly taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 885

**(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

The following deficiencies were observed during the accounting of Property, Plant and Equipment.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(i) Although the balance of non-financial assets according to the financial statements as at 31 December 2022 was Rs. 10,223,624,941, a discrepancy of Rs. 181,051,560 was observed between the opening balance since the opening balance of the non-financial assets stated in Form ACA-6 (SA-82) submitted with the financial statements for the year under review was Rs. 10,042,573,381.	It has been informed that the department lacks the technical knowledge to identify the reasons for the discrepancies among the balances listed under (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) in Item No. 06 of the audit query under non-financial assets, and steps will be taken to make the necessary corrections in coordination with the State Accounts Department. It has been further informed that similar discrepancies in balances existed related to the year 2022, and although the necessary corrections were made in coordination with the State Accounts Department, the errors have reoccurred following the implementation of the guidelines issued with the new version of the CIGAS programme.	The closing balance of non-financial assets in the ACA-6 format for the previous year should be equal with the opening balance of non-financial assets in the ACA-6 format for the year under review.
(ii) Although the balance of non-financial assets according to the financial statements as at 31 December 2022, was Rs. 10,223,624,941, a discrepancy of Rs. 197,804,774 was observed between the opening balances since the opening balance stated in the ACA-82 format in the treasury account statements submitted to the audit for the year under review was Rs. 10,025,820,167.		The closing balance of non-financial assets in the ACA-6 format for the previous year and the opening balance of non-financial assets in the ACA-6 format for the year under review as well as the balance stated in the Treasury accounts statements should be equal.

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| <p>(iii) Although adjustments to the opening balance of non-financial assets as per the ACA-6 format (SA-82) included in the financial statements for the year under review amounted to Rs.1,240,533,864, it was Rs. 620,395 according to the ACA-82 format in the treasury account statements submitted to the audit. Accordingly, a discrepancy of Rs.1,239,913,469 was observed.</p> | <p>The additions adjusted to the opening balance of non-financial assets as per the ACA-6 format (SA-82) in financial statements and the SA-82 format in the Treasury accounts submitted for audit should be equal.</p>                                       |
| <p>(iv) Even though the closing balance of non-financial assets as per the SA-82 format (ACA-6) included in the financial statements amounted to Rs. 11,189,480,019, the balance as per the SA-82 format submitted for audit was Rs. 10,211,189,928, resulting in a discrepancy of Rs. 978,290,091.</p>   | <p>The closing balances of non-financial assets included in the SA-82 format (ACA-6) of the financial statements and those submitted for audit under the SA-82 format should be equal.</p>  |
| <p>(v) A discrepancy of Rs. 978,290,091 was observed between the closing balance of non-financial assets in the SA-82 format submitted for audit and that recorded in the Departmental CIGAS programme.</p>   | <p>The closing balances of non-financial assets according to the SA-82 format submitted for audit and the Departmental CIGAS programme should be equal.</p>   |
| <p>(vi) Although the balance of transport and other machinery and equipment as of 31 December 2023 is shown as Rs. 938,924,404 and Rs. 733,912,844 respectively, under Object No. 9152-2-1 and 9152-2-2 in the ACA-6 format (SA-82) included in the financial statements, the correct</p>   | <p>It has been informed that the variations in the SA-82 format are due to a technical issue, as the format is generated through the CIGAS web interface.</p> <p>The total of the assets included in the financial statements should be correctly stated.</p> |

totals were Rs. 938,863,254 and Rs. 733,973,994 respectively.

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| (vii)  | Of the non-current assets amounting to Rs. 6,815,234 received as donations to the Prisoners' Welfare Fund in 2023, assets worth Rs. 1,731,476, as well as non-financial assets related to 9 value unknown items received by the Negombo and Colombo Remand Prisons, were not included in the departmental financial statements. | It has been informed that the relevant institutions have been instructed to promptly assess the value of the non-financial assets and account for them through the CIGAS system.   | Non-financial assets received as donations to the Welfare Fund should be accounted for through the CIGAS programme.                           |
| (viii) | In addition, 198 items related to 20 subjects of non-financial assets valued at Rs. 206,197 received as donations to the Prisoners' Welfare Fund in 2023 were not taken into account as consumable assets and included in the CIGAS system.   | It has been indicated that instructions have been given to the relevant institutions to promptly include 198 items related to 20 subjects of non-financial assets received as donations for the prisons in Agunukolapellessa, Kalutara, Bogambara, Kegalle, and Negombo into the CIGAS system. | Non-financial assets received as donations to the Welfare Fund should be accurately identified and accounted for through the CIGAS programme. |

**(e) Lack of Evidence for Audit**

No audit evidence had been presented regarding the transaction mentioned below

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Out of the total receivable balance of Rs. 148,861,870 shown in the industrial and agricultural advance account for the year under review, the necessary evidence to verify the balance of Rs. 74,238,302 was not provided during the audit.	Every year, there will be a certain amount of outstanding bills at the end of the year for sales made to the public sector by the prison institutions maintaining the industrial sector. As most of these outstanding bills date back to before 2015, the institutions were advised to settle the overdue bills, but the	Evidence required to confirm the total outstanding debt balance should be presented.



misplacement of old bills has made it difficult to obtain accurate statistics.

## 2. Financial Review

### 2.1. Expenditure Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(i) Of the estimated provisions amounting to Rs. 858,000,000 made for 10 capital Objects, Rs. 456,087,246 remained unutilized, and the savings of each Object ranged from 21 per cent to 100 per cent.	It is agreed that more than 53 per cent or Rs. 456,087,246 of the provisions amounting to Rs. 858,000,000 made for 10 capital Objects remains unspent, and reasons for the savings have been provided under the relevant Objects.	Annual estimates should be prepared in accordance with Financial Regulation 50.
(ii) Of the provisions amounting to Rs. 80,000,000 made for 2 capital Objects, Rs. 54,300,000 was transferred to other Objects under Financial Regulation 66, and thereafter, a sum of Rs. 25,565,658 remained unspent. The further savings of those Objects ranged from 94 per cent to 100 per cent of the net provision.	Since there was no sufficient time to call for competitive bids under the guidance of the NERD institution using the low-cost construction technology under the Object 2104-4, actions were taken to transfer Rs. 46,500,000 of the provisions under this Object to other Object under F.R.66. Although it was anticipated that there would be a payment to settle the final bill for the construction under Object 2104-7, the absence of such bills led to actions being taken to transfer the provisions under F.R. 66 to other Objects requiring funds. Subsequently, a provision of Rs. 2,065,658 of the relevant Object remained unspent.	Annual estimates should be prepared in accordance with Financial Regulation 50.

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| (iii) | Even though the additional provision requests should have been restricted to the activities specified in the budget circular No. 09/2022 dated 17 December 2022, and from 3.1 (i) to (xii) in the preamble to the budget estimates, the Department had, contrary to this, received a total supplementary provision of Rs. 1,740,000,000 for Objects 1202, 1203, and 1403, amounting to Rs. 120,000,000, Rs. 1,500,000,000, and Rs. 120,000,000, respectively. | Although it has been emphasized that additional provision requests should be limited only to the tasks mentioned from (i) to (xii), due to payments made from the 2023 provisions for unsettled bills amounting to Rs. 1,485.9 million for Object 1203 concerning detainees under the Prisons Ordinance in the year 2022, only Rs. 1,888.7 million in provisions remained unspent for the year 2023. Due to the existence of unresolved cases for more than 90% of approximately 28,500 detainees, the increase in fuel prices for the transportation of detainees to courts located across the island, compared to the prices at the time the budget estimates were prepared, along with rising costs for cooking gas, furnace fuel, and expenses for the detainees, as well as the increase in electricity and water unit charges according to the amendments in the year 2023, have contributed to this situation. | Actions should be taken according to the National Budget Circular. |
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**2.2. Certifications to be made by the Chief Accounting Officer / Accounting Officer.**

Although the Chief Accounting Officer / Accounting Officer is required to make certifications regarding the matters outlined below, as per the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, actions had not been taken accordingly

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(i) The Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer shall ensure that an effective internal control system for financial control	It has been communicated that future reviews will be conducted in writing and copies will be provided to the Auditor General.	Actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

exists in the Department. They are also responsible for conducting periodic reviews to monitor the effectiveness of such systems and making any necessary alterations for effective implementation. Furthermore, these reviews should be documented in writing, and a copy must be submitted to the Auditor General. However, no information was provided to indicate that such a review was conducted.

- (ii) Although the Chief Accounting Officer and Accounting Officer shall ensure that all audit queries be answered within the specified time as required by the Auditor-General, responses to the audit inquiries were not provided in accordance with section 3.8 of the report. It has been informed that necessary actions will be taken to promptly provide replies to the audit inquiries. Actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

### 2.3. Non-compliance with laws, rules and regulations

Instances of non-compliance with laws, rules and regulations observed during the course of audit test checks are analyzed below.

Reference to laws, rules and regulations	Observation	Non-compliance	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Motor Vehicle Act No. 14 of 1951, Section 25(1)	Value (Rs.) -	Valid revenue licenses for the 32 vehicles operated under Department of Prisons had not obtained for the year 2023, as required by the Act.	The superintendents of institutions have been informed to obtain new revenue licenses one	Valid revenue licenses should be obtained in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

				week prior to the expiration of the vehicle revenue licenses, and they have been instructed to seek explanations from those officials in the event of delays.	
(b)	Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka				
(i)	272(3)	172,241	Six payment vouchers of the Research and Correctional Training Center of the Prisons Department were not submitted for audit.	In order to prevent these deficiencies, necessary instructions have been given to appoint a separate officer to conduct strict supervision and to duly submit the vouchers for audit.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 272 (3).
(ii)	571	10,834,706	No action had been taken in accordance with the Financial Regulations regarding the deposits exceeding two years related to 04 general deposit accounts.	Actions have been taken to provide guidance to all institutions' prison authorities to take steps in accordance with F.R. 571 concerning general deposit accounts.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 571.

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| (iii) 770(4) | - | <p>No disposal activities had been carried out concerning the 31 vehicles in the Department of Prisons, and although recommendations for disposal have been received for another 34 vehicles, the disposal activities have not yet been completed.</p>   | <p>It has been informed that the relevant inspections will be conducted regarding the vehicles that need to be disposed of in the Department of Prisons, and prompt action will be taken accordingly.</p>   | <p>Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 770(4).</p> |
| (iv) 756(6)  | - | <p>Although the board of survey reports of the previous year should have been submitted to the Auditor General by June 15 of the following year, the board of survey reports for the year 2022 of the Batticaloa Prison and the Research and Corrections Training Center had not been submitted. Furthermore, reports regarding appropriate actions taken concerning the items listed in the general report number 47 of all institutions under the Department of Prisons have not yet been submitted.</p> | <p>Currently, efforts are being made to submit the board of survey reports for the year 2022 relevant to both institutions, and it is informed you that reports regarding appropriate actions taken concerning the items listed in the general report number 47 will be submitted promptly.</p> | <p>Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 756(6).</p> |

## 2.4. Issuance and Settlement of Advances

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Although an ad-hoc sub-impresst cannot be granted to a non-staff officer as per Financial Regulation 371(2)(b), a sum of Rs. 699,280 had been provided as an ad-hoc sub-impresst on 38 occasions to 05 non-staff officers at the Research and Corrections Training Center.	It has been notified that, in line with the Financial Regulation 371(2)(b) as amended by State Financial Circular 01/2020, henceforth, advances for all training programs should be obtained by a staff officer and settled immediately upon the completion of the relevant task.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 371(2)(b).
(b) Although an advance obtained should be settled immediately upon the completion of the task for which it is granted, the sum of Rs. 1,536,560 granted on 70 occasions for various activities at the Prisons Headquarters and the Research and Corrections Training Center had been settled after a delay of 7 to 290 days from the due date.	Officers have been instructed to settle the ad-hoc sub-impressts immediately upon the completion of the relevant task. However, due to minor delays in official duties, there has been some delay in settling the advances.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 371(5).
(c) Due to the failure to settle as mentioned above, a sum of Rs. 389,773 out of the Rs. 1,202,210 obtained on 46 occasions at the Prisons Headquarters and the Research and Corrections Training Center remained with the respective officer for a period ranging from 7 to 169 days.	It has been stated that all sections and staff officers have been instructed to ensure that ad-hoc sub-impressts provided to officers are settled immediately after the completion of the task, in accordance with Financial Regulation 371(2), in a manner prevent the misuse of government funds.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 371(5).

## 3. Operating Review

### 3.1. Planning

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
During the preparation of the annual action plan, provisions had been estimated for dummy activities	Dummy allocations are made without identifying specific tasks in the action plan for the	The action plan should be prepared in accordance with

without identifying the actual activities to be implemented throughout the year. Later, the action plan was revised at the end of the year according to the actual activities. Accordingly, the action plan could not be utilized as a management tool for completing all tasks (goods, services, and projects) undertaken by the entity. Consequently, it was also not possible to achieve the expected objectives of preparing plans in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

Objects 2001, 2002, and 2003 and the activities under these three Objects involve building repairs, machinery, and vehicle repairs that arise unexpectedly and cannot be pre-determined. Nevertheless, based on past experiences from previous years, the authorities allocate a certain amount of provisions equivalent to the expected expenditure. The allocated provision amount for the relevant year is effectively utilized based on the priority of the requirements of the activities. The amendments made accordingly and the progress achieved through them are monitored through monthly progress reports and progress review meetings, indicating that the action plan has functioned as a management tool for managing targeted tasks.

**3.2. Failure to Achieve Expected Outcome**

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>In a situation where the human and physical resources necessary to provide education to school children in the country are at a critically low level, there has been an insufficient number of students relative to the human and physical resources allocated to the Watareka National Training School for Youthful Offenders. Additionally, the absence of an appropriate methodology for educating the students has made it impossible for this project to achieve successful outcomes.</p>	<p>It has been stated that necessary actions will be taken to implement an appropriate plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to achieve more successful outcomes in the future.</p>	<p>Necessary actions should be taken in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to ensure the proper maintenance of this school in line with the criteria of a National School.</p>

### 3.3. Delays in the Execution of Projects

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>(a) As a solution to the significant overcrowding in prisons, the National Planning Department had submitted a project report amounting to 135 million rupees in 2019 for the necessary urgent improvement of the Correctional Centre for Youthful Offenders at Pallansena in Negombo. The project was set to begin on 28 September 2020, and was intended to be completed by 31 December 2020. By 31 December 2023, a total of 11 main items of work were expected to be completed, of which the estimated cost for 7 items of work was Rs.10,478,341, while the provision amount was Rs.10,125,031. No estimates had yet been prepared for another 4 work components. Although this project has incurred expenses exceeding 105 million rupees, excluding the salaries and overtime allowances paid by the expenditure head of the Civil Security Department, it was not completed even by 06 February 2024. According to Financial Regulation 136(1), the relevant service should cover by appropriate authority, and fall within the scope of the vote or other authorized financial provision. However, without adhering to this, the Civil Security Department's staff executing the projects for the development of the Correctional Centre for Youthful Offenders in Pallansena had been paid a total of</p>	<p>Although this project was initiated in 2020, challenges arose due to the prevailing conditions in the country, issues with material supply and procurement by the Sri Lanka Navy, and other factors. Consequently, there were difficulties in the labor contribution from the Civil Security Department, compounded by the extremely close groundwater levels at the construction site, which posed challenges to moving forward with the work. Specifically, the sewerage system has been separately supplied by the Sri Lanka Navy as an additional contract. Its estimated value is not included in the estimates prepared by the Army. Although many progress review meetings have been conducted to offer necessary instructions to the relevant parties, our department has not been able to exert a direct influence on those parties. A decision has been made to procure and supply the necessary additional materials through the Pallansena facility of the Department of Prisons.</p>	<p>The management should take measures to implement systematic programmes to complete the projects within the planned timelines and achieve the expected results.</p>



22,293,250 rupees in combined allowances by the Department of Prisons from the beginning of 2021 until the end of 2023. Contrary to Section 1.3 of Chapter XIV of the Establishments Code of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, while providing combined allowances to the staff of the Civil Security Department in this project from November 2020 to December 2021, a total of 4,677,625 rupees to be paid to the prison's cafeteria for the food and beverages they received had been paid under this project as per the decision of the Minor Administrative Procurement Board

- (b) To stabilize the unstable ground caused by the landslide within the Kegalle prison premises on 19 October 2019, an expenditure of Rs. 20,667,766 had been made for building a retaining wall beneath and repairing the wall at the landslide site. Although a protective sheet covering and a safety wire fence were erected to cover the collapsed section of the wall, the possibility of another landslide or wall collapse remains, posing a threat to the lives of the detainees and officials. Therefore, it was observed that constructing a protective wall is essential for safety.
- Procurement activities have already commenced to carry out the necessary constructions to safeguard the remaining sections of this wall and other structures. The removed section of the wall has been temporarily covered with a protective panel and a wire fence constructed accordingly. It has been informed that after the completion of the relevant construction, the temporary structure will be removed, ensuring the security of the institution.
- Steps should be taken to act in full compliance with the instructions of the National Building and Research Organization.

### 3.4. Procurements

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>(a) As stated in Guideline 3.4.1 of the Government Procurement Guidelines and Section 2.14.1 of the Procurement Manual, when making purchases by Regional Procurement Committees, quotations from not less than five sealed bids should be called by following the shopping method. However, contrary to this, the Kalutara Prison had obtained quotations from only 03 institutions, making purchases worth Rs. 1,184,320 across 12 occasions during the first eight months of 2023. Likewise, during the first six months of 2023, the Negombo Prison obtained quotations from 03 institutions, making purchases totaling Rs. 315,375 on three occasions. Although the relevant quotations for these purchases should have been called exclusively from registered suppliers or those listed on the Telecom Rainbow Pages, this was not done.</p>	<p>It has been informed that all prison institutions were instructed to call for sealed quotations from not less than five suppliers by follow the shopping method when making purchases by Regional Procurement Committees and obtain quotations for these purchases exclusively from registered suppliers or those listed on the Telecom Rainbow Pages as stated in Guideline 3.4.1 of the Government Procurement Guidelines and Section 2.14.1 of the Procurement Manual.</p>	<p>Actions should be taken in accordance with the referred Government Procurement Guidelines.</p>
<p>(b) As per Guideline 2.5.1(a) of the Government Procurement Guidelines, the members of procurement committees are collectively and individually responsible for ensuring the availability of funds for the considered procurement process. However, despite a procurement decision being made on 24 October 2022, for the installation of a roof covering for the watchtower at the</p>	<p>Efforts had been made to carry out improvements in 31 prison institutions with the use of limited funds. However, due to issues in some institutions (including prison labor, the lack of technical officers, absence of work inspectors, and suppliers' reluctance to supply materials at the designated price), the funds were not fully utilized. Even</p>	<p>Actions should be taken in accordance with the referred Government Procurement Guidelines.</p>

Negombo Prison, valued at Rs. 856,195, the contract had not been awarded due to the lack of provisions. though approval was obtained for this roof, it has been informed that the work will be completed in the upcoming year due to the exhaustion of the allocated funds.

### 3.5. Assets Management

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) Although the Department of Prisons had ownership of 363.64 acres of land, it was not accounted for due to the lack of valuation.	Requests have been submitted to the Provincial Valuation Offices and the Chief Government Valuer to promptly provide valuation reports for the lands that were not accounted for due to the absence of valuation, despite the ownership having been transferred.	Measures must be taken to assess and account for the value of the lands owned by the Department of Prisons.
(b) The ownership of 390.98 acres of land used by the Department of Prisons for prisons, detention centers, open prison camps, rehabilitation centers, and farms had not been transferred.	It is notified that steps are being taken to expedite the transfer of lands that have not yet been transferred, and all prison officials have been advised to give special attention to this matter and to swiftly takeover the of untransferred lands.	Measures should be taken to transfer the ownership of these lands.
(c) At the Agunakolapelessa Prison, 64 security cameras, 2 treatment units of the sewage system, a computer used for entering data into the information management system, and 2 fingerprint machines remained as inactive assets.	It is communicated to the audit that urgent actions are being taken to repair and reinstate these items for use.	Appropriate measures should be taken to either repair or dispose of the inactive assets.

- (d) During the audit test check, it was found that the 47 public service residences in Agunakolapelessa Prison, assets from the bakery section, 49 various machines including block-making machines, sewing machines and weaving machines at the Delupatha Youthful Offenders Correction Center, 11 various machines including photocopying machines and a sewing machines at the Negambo Prison, a block-making machine, 20 steel beds, and a water bowser at the Wataraka Prison all remained as underutilized assets.
- It has been communicated that arrangements will be made in the future to transfer the items remain as underutilized assets to other institutions where there is a need.
- A systematic arrangements should be made to fully utilize the underutilized assets.
- (e) When reporting the progress under the Engineering (Mechanical) section during the meeting of the Audit Management Committee held on 07 September 2023 at the Prison Department, it was reported that arrangements were being made by 28 February 2023 to repair the vehicle bearing 18-8096, parked at the Mahara Chief Jailor's official residence since 2017. The audit's physical inspection revealed that the vehicle was not found at Mahara Prison and had been transported to a technical college in Ratmalana based on directives from the prison headquarters. However, no evidence was provided to the audit to verify that it had been formally transferred.
- All documents related to this vehicle belonging to Mahara Prison were destroyed during the riot that occurred at the Mahara Prison. It has been stated by the prison authorities of the Mahara Prison that the vehicle was given to a technical institution in Ratmalana, but no related documentation can be found.
- Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 156(1).
- (f) Since the cab bearing number PA-7034 had been provided to the Dalupotha Correction Center for Youth Offenders without a proper transfer by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms in 2013, it has not been operable due to the lack of repairs to date.
- It has been communicated that estimates for repairs on this cab vehicle have been obtained, and since performing the repairs is economically disadvantageous, arrangements will be made to conduct disposal activities after a formal handover it to the department.
- Following a formal transfer, repairs should be performed in accordance with Public Administrative Circular No. 30/2016 dated 29 December 2016.

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| (g) | Since 24 March 2021, the van bearing the number PH-1916 belonging to the Vavuniya Prison, and the cab bearing the number PA-8709 belonging to the prison headquarters since 14 May 2022, have been have been in external institutions for over 03 for repairs.   | Approval has now been granted for the repair of the van PH-1916 belonging to the Vavuniya Prison, while repairs for the cab PA-8709 owned by the prison headquarters are currently underway. It has also been informed that arrangements will be made to transport the vehicles back to the institutions after the repairs are completed. | Actions should be taken in accordance with Public Administration Circular No. 30/2016 dated 29 December 2016. |
| (h) | During audit test check, it was found that the milometers of 13 buses and an ambulance at the Colombo Remand, Agunukolapelleessa, and Minuwangoda Prisons, as well as the Correction Center for Youth Offenders in Dalupotha, had been inactive for a period ranging from 3 months to 4 years. During this time, 95,392 liters of fuel had been used to drive these vehicles for a total distance of 395,688 kilometers. | Instructions have been given to promptly carry out repairs on the milometers of the vehicles at the Colombo Remand, Agunukolapelleessa, and Minuwangoda Prisons that have been inactive. It is also reported that the milometer for the vehicle related to the Dalupotha Correction Center for Youth Offenders has now been repaired.     | Actions should be taken to repair the inactive milometers.  |

### 3.6. Losses and Damages

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) Among the losses and incidents that remain to be further collected, written off, or waived, as presented under Annex (01) of the financial statements of the year under review, it was observed that the loss from 33 incidents, including 28 vehicle accidents existed over a period of more than 10 years, amounted to Rs. 36,220,218, while the loss from 80 incidents, including 79 vehicle accidents between 5 to 10 years, amounted to Rs. 15,651,990, and	The audit is notified that writing offs will be carried out once approval is granted.	Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulations 103 and 104.

the loss from 78 incidents, including 77 vehicle accidents occurring within a period of less than 5 years, with 30 from the year 2023, amounted to Rs. 49,955,804. Although it was recommended to write off a loss of Rs. 2,937,032 related to accidents involving 6 vehicles from the books, the approval from the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs, and Constitutional Reforms has not been received yet.

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| (b) | Among the losses and incidents to be further recovered, written off or waived as presented under Note (01) of the financial statements for the year 2023, the amount of 05 losses, which occurred during the period from 2017 and up to the end of 2021, had not been assessed until 28 February 2024.  | It has been communicated that relevant institutions will be notified to take the necessary actions to promptly acquire the values needed for evaluating the losses concerning the five (05) incidents to be further recovered, written off or waived.                           | Actions must be taken regarding losses including the vehicle accidents in accordance with Financial Regulations 103 and 104. |
| (c) | In accordance with Financial Regulation 104(03), if a delay exceeding 07 days is expected in submitting a complete report, a preliminary report concerning the losses and damages should be submitted immediately. However, the preliminary reports related to 122 losses and damages that occurred between the years 1998 and 2023 within the Prisons Department had not been submitted. | By the Circular No. 08/2023 dated 29 March 2023 of the Commissioner General of Prisons, all institutions have been informed to submit the preliminary reports. It has also been stated that the relevant reports will be forwarded to the audit in the order they are received. | Actions should be taken in accordance with the referred Financial Regulations.   |
| (d) | In accordance with Financial Regulation 104(4), a complete report should be submitted within 03 months from the date the losses and damages occurred. However, in addition to the 122 instances of losses and damages for which initial reports have not been submitted, as pointed out above, the Prisons Department has not submitted complete reports for 34 losses and                | It is informed that the complete reports related to vehicle accidents will be promptly obtained from the relevant institutions and submitted for audit.   | Actions should be taken in accordance with the referred Financial Regulations.   |

damages that occurred between the years 1998 and 2023.

- (e) Regarding the accident involving vehicle bearing number NC-5426, Toyota Lanka Private Limited has submitted two estimates, amounting to Rs. 4,974,724 on 05 January 2022, and Rs. 8,656,243 on 19 October 2022, respectively. However, according to the letter from the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation dated 18 June 2022, a response was not provided regarding the notification to either carry out the repairs and submit the vehicle for inspection or to provide reasons if this could not be done. Accordingly, no action had been taken to identify and recover the loss incurred by the government in terms of Financial Regulation 156(1). Furthermore, although a complete report should have been submitted within three months of the date of the accident, in accordance with Financial Regulation 104(4), the report was not submitted even by the time of the audit.
- Due to the delay in obtaining approval for the estimate, a letter was sent to the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation on 12 January 2022, requesting a reconsideration of the insurance terms, as the repair could not be completed within the approved time frame. It has been informed that the delay in this repair was due to the time required to properly conduct government procurement processes, which was beyond the control of the officials.
- Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulations 103, 104, and 156(1).
- (f) Due to the failure to make payments within the stipulated time frame for electricity bills during the year 2023 in the Agunakolapelessa, Negombo, and Kalutara prison institutions and the Dalupotha Correctional Centre for Youth Offenders, fines (surcharges) amounting to Rs. 1,392,311 were paid. Additionally, due to the delay in the payment of water bills at the Agunakolapelessa Prison in 2023, fines (surcharges) amounting to Rs. 188,306 were also paid.
- It has been communicated that arrangements will be made to release the imprests to the prison institutions without any delays immediately after the receipt of imprests.
- Actions should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 780.

### 3.7. Uneconomic Transactions

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>(a) It was observed during the audit test check on 31 December 2023 that inmates at the Welikada Prison had been deployed in the residential premises of the officers on 233 occasions, and a total of 234 man-days were spent by the prison guard for this purpose. Within this timeframe, on 62 occasions, 09 reserve vehicles from the prison headquarters were operated over a distance of 372 kilometers to transport inmates to the residential premises. Although the Budget Circular No. 01/2023 dated 27 January 2023, emphasized the necessity of strict control over overtime expenditures, a total of Rs. 982 million was spent on overtime and leave allowances in 2023, representing an increase of Rs. 106 million compared to the previous year</p>	<p>Since the prison must carry out daily sanitation activities, it cannot be considered unnecessary to utilize inmates for cleaning the prison premises. Furthermore, it has been noted that the increase of Rs. 106 million in overtime allowances in 2023, compared to 2022, did not have any impact from the above fact, and It is due to the approval provided for a total overtime of 200 hours earned by the officers, as stated in letter No. MOJ/E10/අයි/අනු/෧෫ /2023 from the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs, and Constitutional Reform, dated 12 September 2023.</p>	<p>Actions should be taken as per Budget Circular No. 01/2023 dated 27 January 2023.</p>
<p>(b) Although Budget Circular No. 1/2023, issued on 27 January 2023, states in Section 2(a)(III) that payments under the Object coded 1003 should only be made for genuine service requirements, payments for the night patrols of jailers had been made without adhering to this guideline. However, although the inmates in the Research and Correctional Training Center were not held during the night, a total of Rs. 125,200 was paid on 12 occasions in 2023 for jailers' night patrols within that premises.</p>	<p>It is informed that immediate investigations will be conducted regarding the jailers' night patrols at the Research and Correctional Training Center, and necessary further actions will be taken to recover the paid amounts.</p>	<p>Actions should be taken as per Budget Circular No. 01/2023 dated 27 January 2023.</p>



### 3.8. Not responding to queries.

No answers had been sent for the following audit queries issued to the department even by 17 July 2024.

<b>Description of the Audit Query</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
No answers had been provided for the 07 audit queries issued to the department even by 17 July 2024.	The audit is informed that steps will be taken to swiftly provide answers to the audit queries.	According to Section 38(1)(i) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and Financial Regulation 155, the Accounting officer should take measures to swiftly act and provide answers to written queries issued to him by the Auditor General or any other officer authorized by him

### 3.9. Management Weaknesses

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) Those prisoners who are unable to pay bail are incarcerated, and they should be released from custody immediately upon receiving orders for their release following the payment of bail. Nevertheless, it was noted that there were 121 cases in January 2023 at the Negombo Prison where prisoners were not released on the same day the order for their release upon payment of bail was issued.	When bail orders are issued by the courts of Minuwangoda, Marawila, Chilaw, Puttalam, Kalpitiyawa, and Anamaduwa relevant to the Negombo Prison, these bail orders arrive at the prisoner registration section of the Negombo Prison only after the conclusion of court security. Since the court office operations are completed at that time, it has been indicated that the bail applicants are presented to the court the following day.	Action should be taken to release prisoners from custody on the same date the bail orders are received, on making due payments.

- (b) Those prisoners who are unable to pay bail are incarcerated, and they should be released from custody immediately upon receiving orders for their release following the payment of bail. Nevertheless, it was noted that there were 292 cases from 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 at the Negombo Prison where prisoners were not released on the same day the order for their release was issued.
- When releasing orders are issued by the courts of Minuwangoda, Marawila, Chilaw, Puttalam, Kalpitiyawa, and Anamaduwa relevant to the Negombo Prison, these orders arrive at the prisoner registration section of the Negombo Prison only after the court securities are received by the Prison. It has been indicated that there is no legal capacity to release prisoners during the night, therefore, arrangements are made for their release on the following day and any releases occurring before the prison closes in the evening will be carried out on the same day.
- Action should be taken to immediately release prisoners from custody upon receiving the release orders.
- (c) It was observed during physical inspections conducted at the Nigambo and Agunakolapelessa prisons that the systems installed within the prisons to jam mobile phone signals, intended to prevent inmates from making calls to external parties while unlawfully keeping mobile phones, were not functioning properly.
- Since this system operates under the Ministry of State Security, the Department of Prisons has no capability to take any action or manage it. Therefore, all existing faults in the system have been reported to the Ministry of State Security.
- The signal jamming system should be operated properly to achieve the intended purposes of establishing the jamming of telephone signals.
- (d) According to Section 5.2.1 of Chapter XIX of the Establishments Code, although it is stated that 12.5% should be recovered from the salary of a married officer who does not have the right to obtain scheduled residences (having obtained public service housing), in the year 2023, a total of Rs. 2,334,509 should have been collected as housing rent from 76 married officers in five prison institutions who do not have the right to obtain scheduled residences. However, only 10% of their salaries, amounting to Rs. 1,864,952, were collected for
- As pointed out by the audit, instructions have been provided to all prison institutions to charge official quarters rent in accordance with Section 5.2.1 of Chapter XIX of the Establishments Code. Additionally, it has been instructed to collect the arrears amount of Rs. 469,557 pointed out in the audit from the respective officials.
- Action should be taken in accordance with to Section 5.2.1 of Chapter XIX of the Establishments Code.

housing rent. Thus, Rs. 469,557 less than required amount was collected.

- (e) It is necessary to make payments in a timely manner to obtain discounts available under Regulation 210 whenever possible. However, due to non-payment during the relevant period, a total discount of Rs. 488,461 could not be obtained for 15 accounts related to the Agunukolapelessa, Kalutara, Negambo, Vatarak prisons and Youth Offenders Correctional Center at Dalupatha, in settling the water bills for the year 2023.
- (f) Within the total amount of Rs. 148,826,252 due from sales made by the prison to the public sector, there are outstanding amounts of Rs. 2,377,921 that are over 20 years old and Rs. 23,643,153 that fall between 5 to 20 years. Additionally, among the amounts of Rs. 35,618 due from sales made to the private sector, there is an amount Rs. 19,034 that is over 20 years old and Rs. 16,584 that falls between 10 to 20 years. Although these amounts have remained outstanding for an extended period, no action has been taken to recover them without delay in accordance with Financial Regulation 502(b).
- (g) Although there should be adequate space and facilities for detainees in accordance with recognized international standards, the provisions of the Prisons Ordinance, and internal circulars, ensuring both mental and physical
- It has been informed that arrangements will be made to imprests to prison institutions without delay upon receipt of funds.
- Every year, there will be a certain amount of outstanding bills at the end of the year for sales made to the public sector by the prison institutions maintaining the industrial sector. Most of these outstanding bills date back to before 2015 and there is no proper system to keep accurate records on them. Even though institutions were advised to settle the overdue bills, the misplacement of old bills has made it difficult to obtain accurate statistics. Since it has not been possible to obtain accurate information regarding the sum of Rs. 35,618.00 due from the private sector, difficulties have arisen in recovering the amount, and it is informed that there has been no such outstanding balance since 2013.
- It is informed that every effort is made to uphold the fundamental principles of detaining prisoners and suspects in accordance with United Nations standards and the provisions of the Prisons
- Action should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 210.
- Action should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 502 (b)
- Actions should be taken in compliance with accepted international standards, Rule 179 created under Section 94 of the Prisons

well-being, an audit test check conducted in 2023 revealed that 2,601 more detainees were housed in 62 cells of 5 prisons than the prescribed capacity. Additionally, 127 detainees fewer than the intended capacity were housed in 12 cells of the Agunakolapelessa Prison.

(h) Due to the government analyst's reports on drug samples submitted by the police to the Department of Government Analyst regarding suspects remanded by the court not yet being presented, an audit test check in 2023 revealed that the number of suspects held in remand custody at the Agunakolapelessa, Kalutara, and Negombo prisons was 1,421.

(i) It was revealed during the audit test check that, the number of detainees who had been held at the Agunakolapelessa Prison for more than 6 months, awaiting transfer to rehabilitation centers based on court orders given for rehabilitation is 45 as at 01 October 2023.

(j) The total number of inmates who were repeatedly incarcerated at the prisons of Agunakolapelessa, Watarake, Negombo, Welikada, Mahara, and Bogambara between January and the end of November 2023 was 2,316. Moreover, there is currently no systematic method in place within the prison to identify individuals who are frequently re-incarcerated, and it has been

Ordinance, as well as to house the detainees appropriately according to classifications. However, considering the convenience of presenting detainees with pending court cases to the relevant courts, they are held in prisons close to these courts, and they are not transferred to other prisons with more space due to the additional expenses that would be incurred for that purpose.

It has been informed that the delay by the Government Analyst's Department in providing Analyst's reports for these suspects has resulted in their prolonged detention in prisons, and this situation is beyond the control of the Prison Department.

It has been stated that requests will be made under the annual budget estimates to obtain the necessary physical resources, which are currently insufficient for the implementation of programmes, and efforts will be made to seek external assistance for acquiring the required human resources when needed.

The repeated incarceration of prison inmates largely occurs among drug addicts. It has been reported that the necessary counseling services for rehabilitation are provided through the advisory officials of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.

Ordinance (Chapter 54), and internal circulars.

By swiftly obtaining Analyst's reports, actions related to the suspects should be carried out systematically.

Prisoners should be rehabilitated in an orderly manner with adequate human and physical resources obtained for rehabilitation.

Actions should be taken to create a robust and organized rehabilitation programme aimed at minimizing the incidence of re-incarceration.

observed during the audit that these inmates are identified solely based on the verbal information they provide.

- (k) In accordance with the provisions in Section 223 of the amendments made to Section 54 of the Prisons Ordinance in 1956, every prisoner is required to wear and use prison uniforms as per the scales outlined in Schedule II and approved by the government. However, although there were over 500 inmates at the Agunakolapelessa Prison as of 13 November 2023, 75 of them did not have prison uniforms and were using personal clothing. It was also observed that the uniforms provided to the other inmates were not in good condition.
- It has been notified that all prisons have been instructed to take the necessary steps to obtain the required prison uniforms for every inmate from the warehouse division of the prison headquarters.
- Action should be taken in accordance with provisions in Section 223 of the amendments made in 1956 to Section 54 of the Prisons Ordinance.
- (l) Since overcrowding in prisons is primarily due to imprisonments for drug-related offenses, and many of the inmates involved are drug addicts who attempt, in various ways, to obtain the necessary quantities of drugs, prison officers are compelled to focus more on preventing these incidents. This has become a hindrance to achieving the primary goals of the prison system, as well as affecting the internal security and operations of the prisons. During the physical inspection conducted at Negombo and Kalutara prisons regarding this matter, it was observed that as of 27 August 2023, 65 per cent of the total 2,225 inmates at Negombo Prison, or 1,442 inmates, were related to drug offenses. Similarly, as of 19 September 2023, 69 per cent of the total 1,275 inmates at Kalutara Prison, or 885 inmates, were related to drug offenses.
- The counseling services required for drug-related rehabilitation are provided through the counselors of the Dangerous Drugs Control Board. Magistrates have notified that officers in charge of police stations should be informed that the number of inmates under protective care for drug use is increasing. The prison welfare division also continuously implements awareness programs related to drug use.
- Since one of the department's main tasks is to create the necessary social environment for inmates to reintegrate as good citizens in line with current needs, it is essential to coordinate with other relevant state institutions in this regard.

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| (m) | As at 30 September 2023, there were 145 pending appeals submitted by inmates that had not been resolved for more than three months at Agunakolapelessa Prison, of which 106 had been pending for over two years.                                | At present, there are 145 inmates at Agunakolapelessa Prison who have submitted appeals that have not yet been resolved. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, these inmates have been produced before the Appeals Court via ZOOM technology up to the present date.  | Measures should be implemented to promptly resolve the appeals.      |
| (n) | Despite the bail being granted by the Honorable Court for the inmates in custody, 229 inmates were observed at Negombo Prison as of 15 August 2023, having been held for an extended period due to their inability to meet the bail conditions. | Having informed the relevant courts within the existing legal framework under the Release of Remand Prisoners Act No. 08 of 1991 regarding the detainees who are imprisoned due to their failure to fulfill bail conditions action will be taken to grant release on personal bail, allowed to conclude legal proceedings for those who have accepted their offenses, and provided relief by relaxing the imposed bail conditions. It has also been communicated that the magistrates will be notified in this regard and records will be submitted to the relevant court regarding the detainees who are unable to secure bail. | Arrangements should be made to promptly fulfill the bail conditions. |

#### 4. Human Resource Management

The following observations are made.

<b>Audit Observation</b>	<b>Comment of the Accounting Officer</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(a) As at 31 December 2023, the total number of approved officers stood at 7,872, with the actual number of officers being 6,173. Accordingly, there were 18 excess officers for 2 positions and 1,717 vacancies related to 79 positions.	Despite the government's suspension of all recruitments, approval has been granted by the Secretary of the Ministry in a letter dated 04 January 2023, for the recruitment of 300 male and 47 female prison guards,	The management should conduct a review of the staff and take necessary actions accordingly to maintain an effective level of service.

totaling 347. Accordingly, following the call for applications, a competitive examination will be conducted on 16 March 2024, in line with the directives of the General Commissioner of Examinations. Based on the results, interviews will be held, and training will be provided after the recruitments are made. Accordingly, it has been communicated that suitable actions will be taken to fill the vacancies in the institutions.

- (b) As of 31 December 2023, there were 22 excess graded doctors in 14 prison hospitals and 9 vacant graded doctors in 5 prison hospitals. Moreover, 5 excess registered doctors were present in 4 prison hospitals, and 5 vacant registered doctors were found in 3 prison hospitals. Although it has been communicated that the information in the records related to the arrival and departure of doctors in prison hospitals will be sent by the Commissioner General of Prisons to the Director General of Health, in relation to the implementation of the directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts held on 09 June 2023, only the details of the doctors assigned to several prison hospitals were forwarded. Furthermore, these were not organized as systematical reports.
- It is notified that since the Ministry of Health assigns doctors to the prison hospitals relevant to the Prison Department, managing the performance of these doctors a matter outside the administration of the Prison Department. Furthermore, it has been communicated to all prisons via letters No. D22/Health/2017(1), dated 10 August 2023, and 22 December 2023, that reports of the doctors' arrivals and departures should be sent to the Prison Headquarters before the 5th of every month. Accordingly, it is informed that arrangements have been made to send the reports of doctors' arrivals and departures received up to April 2024 to the Director General of Health Services.
- When assigning doctors to prison hospitals, it is essential to properly identify the need and implement a systematic procedure in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the directives issued by the Committee on Public Accounts held on 09 June 2023 should be implemented.
- (c) Although points were awarded for holding positions related to the Jailors' Association when promoting to the post of Chief Jailer based on seniority and competence, the failure to hold general assembly meetings over the
- It is informed to the audit that necessary instructions have been provided to ensure that all activities of associations to which prison officers hold membership are conducted systematically and in an orderly
- Actions should be taken in line with the formal scheme of recruitment and promotion.

past four years deprived other officers of the opportunity to hold such positions. Moreover, the positions held in the Association did not reflect adequate performance, which caused an injustice to other officers during the interview process by awarding marks solely for the positions held.

- (d) As per Public Service Commission Procedural Rule No. 251, when drafting annual transfer policies and procedures, attention should be paid to preventing the efforts of officers to continuously stay in the same geographical area by obtaining consecutive transfers between service stations in the same region. During the audit test check, it was observed that, 377 officers from 10 prison institutions had continuously served at the same institution for periods ranging from 6 to 25 years since their initial appointment to the prison as of 31 March 2024. Additionally, it was further noted that 29 of these officers had previously been attached to the same prisons.
- Given the limited number of regional institutions across the island and the severe economic difficulties currently faced by public servants due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country, opportunities have been provided for them to serve in public service institutions within their own residential areas with the aim of managing expenses.
- Annual transfer policies should be formulated and implemented in accordance with the procedural rules of the Public Service Commission.
- For the year 2023, although all officers requested transfers after completing their full term, transfers were not granted to some officers due to their justified reasons. Accordingly, release procedures were carried out only based on the number of officers who were transferred to the prison.