

Head -205 - Department of Public Trustee - 2024

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

Head 205 - The audit of the financial statements of the Department of Public Trustee for the year ended 31 December 2024 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information 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 Public Trustee was issued to the Accounting Officer on 23 April 2025 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 06 June 2025 in terms of Section 11(2) of the Audit Act. This report will be tabled in Parliament in pursuance of Section 10 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 to be read in conjunction with the Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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 Public Trustee for the year ended 31 December 2024, and its financial performance and cash flows and on all the materialities in accordance with the basis of preparation of the financial statements set out in Note 1 to the financial statements.

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 Emphasis of Matter – Basis for preparing Financial Statements

The attention is drawn to the Note 1 related to the Financial Statements which describes the basis of preparing these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared as per the Financial Regulation 150, 151 and the State Accounts Guideline No. 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024 amended on 21 February 2025 for the requirement of the Department of Public Trustee, General Treasury and the Parliament. Consequently, these financial statements may not be suitable for other objectives. My report is only for the use of the Department of Public Trustee, General Treasury and the Parliament of Sri Lanka. My opinion on this matter is not modified.

1.4 Responsibilities of 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 the Financial Regulation 150, 151 and the State Accounts Guideline No. 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024 amended on 21 February 2025 and for such internal control as Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

1.5 Auditor's Responsibility for the audit of 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 judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

1.6 Comments on the Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

(a) Property, Plants and Equipment

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Two vehicles, of which the ownership had been transferred to the Department by the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs in the year 2022, had not been accounted under non-financial assets at the cost or assessed value.	These two vehicles have not been included in non-financial assets as the proceedings are being made to dispose those, and it was informed that the steps are taken to obtain the assessed value and to include in the accounts next year.	In accordance with paragraph 8.2 of the State Accounts Guideline 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024, if there are any non-financial assets to be further reported, those should be identified and accounted at cost or if the cost cannot be identified, those should be identified at estimated value.

(b) Non- maintenance of Records and Books

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
A security register containing the details of the officers and employees who were required to give security in accordance with Financial Regulation 891(1) had not been prepared.	The officers who need to deposit the security have been identified and the amount of the security to be deposited has been determined and the relevant officers have been informed. Further proceedings are being done in coordination with the Public Service Mutual Guarantee Association it had been informed that a security deposit register had also been prepared.	A security register about the officers who are required to give security should be maintained as the details specified in the Financial Regulation 891(1) are included.

2. Report on Other Legal Requirements

I express the following matters in terms of Section 6 (1) (d) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

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

Paragraph reference of the report related to the previous year	Recommendations Non-implemented	Reference Paragraph of this report
1.6.1(b)	The steps had not been taken to maintain a security register about the officers who are required to give security as the details specified in Financial Regulation 891(1) are included.	1.6.1(b)

3. Financial Review

3.1 Assets Management

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) An amount of Rs. 3,368,246 had remained out of the total provision of Rs. 6,000,000 for one recurrent object and three capital objects, and said remaining balance was in a range between 20 percent and 98 percent of the net provision.	Limiting the purchase of non-essential requirements of the office, limiting the purchase of furniture and office equipment due to the total renovation activities carried out in the office building, the inability to complete the procurement activities as scheduled subsequent to obtaining relevant approvals even if the computers and devices were planned to be purchased, the carrying out the complete renovation of the office building by its owner, and not incurring the expenses of upgrading machinery and	The accurate cost estimates should be prepared.

equipment at the expected level.

- (b) Although a sum of Rs. 450,000 had been transferred under F.R. 66 for one recurrent object, a sum of Rs. 156,960; that is 26 percent of the net provision, had remained. A sum of Rs. 1,265,834 out of Rs. 1,368,000 transferred under F.R. 66 for one capital object had been remained, and it was a 53 percent of the net provision. Accordingly, the steps had not been taken to make F.R. transfers with a proper study.
- As the office assistants and drivers had to be deployed during most of the weekends and public holidays due to the renovation of the office building with the labor contribution of the Sri Lanka Army, the steps were taken to transfer an amount of Rs. 450,000 under F.R. 66, and an amount of Rs. 156,960 has been saved due to non-occurrence of overtime duties as much as expected.
- Although an amount of Rs. 1,368,000 was transferred under F.R.66, it had been informed that an amount of Rs. 1,265,834 had been remained due to the inability to obtain the relevant approval and complete the procurement activities as scheduled.
- (c) The office of the Department of Public Trustee is being maintained in a house belonging to a trust estate and its renovation activities were carried out by the D.B. Jayathilaka Trust. However, a provision of Rs. 1,000,000 had been allocated for 205-1-1-1-0-2001 and only a sum of Rs. 198,212 had been spent during the year.
- It had been informed that this amount of provision has remained as the complete renovation of the office building was done by the estate of Sir. D.B. Jayathilaka; the owner of the building, in the year 2024, with the labor contribution of the Sri Lanka Army.
- F.R. transfers should be made subsequent to a proper study.
- The provisions should be allocated considering the requirements.

3.2 Certifications to be made by the Accounting Officer

Although the certifications were to be made by the Accounting Officer regarding the following matters in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the proceedings had not been made accordingly.

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer should make certain that the Department has developed and is maintaining an effective internal control system for the financial control, and the effectiveness of the said system should be reviewed from time to time and necessary changes should be made accordingly to continue the system effectively. Also, even if those reviews should be made in writing and a copy thereof should be submitted to the Auditor General, the statements to the effect that such reviews were conducted had not been submitted to the audit.	It had been informed that the steps would be taken in the future to submit this certification as per the provisions of the National Audit Act.	The actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
(b) The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer should make sure that the annual and other financial statements are prepared within the required time frames, and in addition, the Chief Accounting Officer should ensure that the annual reports relating to the entity being audited are submitted to the Parliament. However, those requirements had not been fulfilled due to the audit observations mentioned in paragraph 4.2 of the report.	It has been informed that the financial statements for the year 2024 have been submitted to the Auditor General on the due date and that the proceedings are currently underway to submit the performance report to the Parliament on the due date.	The actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

3.3 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

The instances of non-compliance with the provisions of laws, rules and regulations observed during sample audits are analyzed below.

	Reference to the Laws, Rules and Regulations	Observation		Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
		Values (Rs.)	Non-compliance		
(a)	Sub-sections 4.2.5,4.5,4.6 and 6.3 in Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	306,500	The loan amounts that exceeded a period of two years and a period of one year to be collected from a retired officer had not been recovered.	It had been informed that the steps would be taken to settle this loan balance immediately by obtaining the provisions from the Department of Pensions.	The proceedings should be made in accordance with the provisions of the Establishments Code.
(b)	Public Administration Circular No.30/2026 dated 29 December 2016 Paragraph 3.1		Although a fuel check should be conducted after a period of 12 months subsequent to each fuel check or running the vehicle for a distance of 25,000 kilometers or undertaking a major engine repair, whichever occurs first, the proceedings had not been done so regarding 09 vehicles owned by the Department.	The steps were taken to appoint a committee to conduct fuel inspections of vehicles, and it had been informed that the actions would be taken to do it this year as per the relevant circulars.	The proceedings should be made in accordance with the circular.

4. Operational Review

4.1 Planning

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Although the action plan should be prepared in accordance with the prescribed format as per the paragraph 03 of the Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020 dated 28 August 2020, the action plan prepared by the Department did not present the activities on a monthly basis and the responsible officer had not been nominated accordingly, and the performance indicators had not been identified and included in the action plan as per the circular.	It had been informed that the action plan for the first 04 months was first prepared according to the Interim Account 2025 and subsequent to the adoption of the Budget Estimate 2025, the action plan was prepared again by including the details of the responsible officers and the performance indicators accordingly.	The proceedings should be done as per the circular.

4.2 Annual Performance Report

In terms of subsection 47(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, No. 44 of 2024, the Annual Performance Report should be published 180 days or earlier upon the end of the financial year. As per the paragraph 10.2 of the Public Finance Circular, No. 2/2020 dated 28 August 2020, the Annual Performance Report should be prepared in accordance with the format specified in Guideline No. 14 issued by the Department of Public Finance. In terms of section 16(2) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, this Performance Report is required to be presented for audit along with the Annual Financial Statements. The following observations are made in that regard.

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The Annual Performance Report for the year 2023 had been presented to the Parliament on 06 November 2024, with a delay of 4 months	It had been informed that there was a delay due to the delay in receiving the Tamil translation of the summary report of the Auditor General and the change of the Minister in charge of the subject, and that it has been scheduled to be presented to Parliament within the due timeframe this year.	The performance report should be tabled in the Parliament within 180 days upon the end of the financial year.

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| <p>(b) The Annual Performance Report had not been submitted on 28 February 2025 together with the financial statements of the year under review, and however it had been submitted to the audit on 08 April 2025. The said draft performance report had not been prepared according to the format specified in Guideline No. 14 issued by the Department of Public Finance in accordance with paragraph 10.2 of Public Finance Circular No. 2/2020 dated 28 August 2020.</p> | <p>It had been informed that the draft performance report submitted by the department would be prepared and submitted in accordance with the format specified in Guideline No. 14 issued by the Department of Public Finance.</p> | <p>The draft annual report should be prepared in accordance with the format given in the circular.</p> |
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4.3 Assets Management

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Even if the vehicles should be used properly and disposed with no delay in accordance with the paragraph 2 (c) of the Asset Management Circular No. 04/2022 dated 25 January 2022, the proceedings had not been done accordingly in respect of two vehicles not in the running condition owned by the Department and a sum of Rs. 426,660 had been incurred for the repair work of the two vehicles as at 31December 2024 and however those vehicles had remained idle on the Department premises.	It had been informed that the necessary steps are currently being taken to dispose these two vehicles.	The proceedings should be done as per the circular.

4.4 Losses and Damages

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
The case; that had been filed in the court to recover the loss of Rs. 254,038 from the driver of the vehicle owned by the department in respect of an accident occurred on 27 January 2007, had been cancelled due prescription law as the follow-up activities were not done . Although 17 years have passed since the occurrence of the accident, the appropriate steps have not been taken to recover the loss from responsible persons.	The incident regarding the vehicle bearing the number 65-0763 was a case happened in the year 2007 and an investigation committee was appointed to take further actions on the matter and a report was obtained. Accordingly, it had been informed that the further actions are being taken in this connection.	The actions should be taken immediately to recover the losses from the relevant parties.

4.5 Management Deficiencies

Following observations are made.

Audit Issue	Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Although a quality report had been obtained from the National Building Research Organization in August 2023 to carry out repairs of the Richmond Castle building located in Palathota, Kalutara which is of historical value and under the Department of Public Trustee as its walls had been damaged by water leakages from the roof since it has not been properly maintained and repaired in a timely manner, the repairs had not been carried out even as at 31 December 2024.	It had been informed that the approval has been received on 06 January 2025 for the Cabinet Memorandum dated 20 December 2024 for the renovation and conservation of the Richmond Castle in Kalutara under a public-private partnership and a request had been submitted in a letter dated 03 April 2025 to appoint officers from the Department of Archaeology, the Department of Buildings and the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority in order to appoint a Negotiation Committee and a Project Committee.	The repair activities should be carried out properly and within the due period.
(b) Although it is the responsibility of the Department to direct and supervise the activities of United Newspapers Company Limited, the said function is not executed by the Department and the steps have not been taken to identify it as a performance indicator.	87.5% of the company's shares are held by the Trusteeship at present "on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka" and the Trusteeship has appointed 5 directors of the company. The Trusteeship has convened the Board of Directors of Lakehouse to review its progress. A representative from the Department of Public Trustee also attends the Audit and Management Committee meetings of Lakehouse.	Since the management and supervision of the affairs of the United Newspapers Company Limited by holding the shares of the said company on behalf of the government is a service being provided by the Department of Public Trustee, it should be identified as a performance indicator.
	Since the Board of Directors including the Chairman is in	

charge of the management and administration as per the Act, it had been informed that the functions and performance of the institution cannot be considered as a performance indicator of the Department of Public Trustee.

- (c) The main objective of the Department of Public Trustee established by the Public Trustee Ordinance No. 01 of 1922 is to manage trusts and estates, and the Department is administering 1141 trusts and 176 estates as at 31 December 2024 according to the Action Plan 2024. The trusts and estates transferred to the Public Trustee are managed under two Deputy Public Trustees, and as per the organizational chart, the Foreign Compensation Division, Legal and Investigation Division and Estate Division were under one Deputy Public Trustee, and the Medical Aid/Scholarship Division and Temple Compensation Division, Personal Trust Division and Religious Division were under other Deputy Public Trustee.

Although the duties had been assigned in writing to the heads of departments by the Deputy Public Trustee, the heads of departments had not assigned the duties in writing under the files belonging to each department to their subordinate officers. Since the trust and estate files administered by each department had not been assigned in writing, it was observed according to the following facts that the trust objectives of the Lionel and Grace de Alwis Trust, the Attorney-at-Law K.D. H. Piyasena Educational Trust, the Lahugala Historical Magulmaha

Temple Development Fund Trust, the Ranawella Liyanaheewage Chandrasekara Trust, the Wjethunga family trust and the D.S.W. Samarakoon Charity Trust had not been fulfilled annually as there was no systematic internal control and follow-up regarding the fulfillment of the objectives of the trusts and estates.

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| (i) | <p>With the aim of providing medical assistance for the health needs of the monks currently residing and will reside in future at the Sri Subodharama Rajamaha Viharaya, Karagampitiya, Dehiwala, the Lionel and Grace de Alwis Trust was established on 24 August 2020 by the founder, Watuthanthirige Priyanga Dayalu de Alwis, and the Public Trustee who is the Security Trustee, and a sum of Rs. 262,500 had been credited by the founder to the Department of Public Trustee on 26 August 2020 for the initial capital of the trust. However, the total interest received in each year from October 2020 to April 2024 had not been used to fulfill the above objectives in each of the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, and however the interest amount of Rs. 64,850 for all three years had been credited to the Sri Subodhararama Rajamaha Viharaya in Karagampitiya, Dehiwala in the year 2024, and as there was no follow-up on whether that money was used to achieve the objectives of the trust, the fact whether the objectives of the trust were achieved was problematic to the audit.</p> | <p>The initial capital for the Lionel and Grace de Alwis Trust is invested by the Legal and Investigation Division. Since there was no subject officer for the file category R – 04 during the period 2021 and 2022, the files had been given to the other officers. Subsequent to handing over this subject file to the subject officer R – 03 in the 2023, the objectives of all three years have been fulfilled simultaneously by the said officer.</p> | <p>The duties should be assigned properly and annual objectives should be achieved.</p> |
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- (ii) Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court; K.D.H. Piyasena Educational Trust had been established on 10 March 2021 with a financial contribution of Rs. 250,000, and its primary objective was to award scholarships to a student selected from the students of all streams studying at H/Debarawewa Central College (National School) who are eligible for university admission. However, even if an amount of Rs. 6,700/- had been awarded as the first scholarship a student of Debarawewa School in the year 2023, Mr. K.D.H. Piyasena had informed the Public Trustee in writing on 25 April 2025 that it had not been received by the said student. After the year 2022, any scholarship had not been awarded by this trust even as at 31 August 2025.
- Accordingly, the relevant amount has been credited to the account of Vitarana Gamage Didula Sri Sathsara, about whom the school had informed, using the interest money accrued in the year 2022 by the Standing Order No. 64 on 27 December 2023. Afterward, in order to fulfill the objectives of the year 2024, the amount payable (Rs. 34,600.00) had been calculated on 10 July 2024 and the institution has been informed to nominate a student and inform the school with the copies to the founder. However, since no student has been nominated, the payments for the year 2024 have not been made.
- A follow-up should be conducted on annual basis and the steps should be taken to provide scholarships annually according to the objectives of the trust.
- (iii) The Historical Magul Maha Viharaya Development Fund Trust of Lahugala, Ampara has been established on 24 September 2020 by the founder called Giragammana Gedara Ranjith and the founder had invested an amount of Rs. 50,000 as the initial capital. The investment interest amount to be released related to the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 to fulfill the objectives of the trust; which are to develop and repair the temple structures of the Historical Magul Maha Viharaya, to contribute to the light offerings of the temple and to provide financial support to the Maha Sangha residing in the temple with *Siwpassaya*, and to provide financial contributions annually, had been paid in one lump sum of Rs. 7,850 to Venerable Indigas Elle PunyasaraThero on 21 July 2025 without fulfilling the objectives annually
- Since there was no subject officer for the file category R – 04 in the year 2022, those files had been given to other officers. After handing over this subject to the subject officer R – 03 in the year 2023, the said officer has fulfilled the objectives of both years simultaneously. The objectives have been successfully fulfilled in the year 2024 as there was a proper follow-up.
- The objectives of the trust to be fulfilled annually should be achieved annually by assigning the duties properly.

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| <p>(iv) The Ranawella Liyanahewage Chandrasekara Trust has been established on 29 October 2021 by the founder; Ranmali Sepalika Ranawella, for the objective of implementing the activities of HelpAge Sri Lanka and to help poor children under the Department of Probation and Child Care and to distribute books and leaflets in English, French and German for the Sri Vajiragnana Dharmayathana in favor of the Buddhist propaganda activities. It had been informed to use the income from the previously established Ranawella Liyanahewage Chandrasekara Estate as the initial capital, and a sum of Rs. 344,878 had been credited to the Ranawella Liyanahewage Chandrasekara Trust through a transfer sheet on 15 July 2024. Although 4 years have passed from 2021 to 2025, no action has been taken to fulfill the objective of the said trust.</p> | <p>This file was in the Legal and Investigation Division until the end of the year 2024 and was received by the Religious Division in the first quarter of the year 2025. The activities of fulfilling the objectives are underway.</p> | <p>It should ensure that the objectives stated in the trust deed are fulfilled.</p> |
| <p>(v) Although it had been mentioned in the note of the file dated 17 August 2023 that the further actions should be taken after discussing with a lawyer as the trust deed and related documents belonging to the Wijethunga Family Trust received by the Department on 22 February 2023 were the documents prepared abroad, no action had been taken to date to fulfill the objectives of the trust by discussing with a lawyer and carrying out further proceedings.</p> | <p>In order to establish the Wijethunga Family Trust, a case of testament should be filed and a probate license should be obtained in the name of the Public Trustee to prove the last will made for that. Once the probate license is obtained, the objectives of the trust can be fulfilled. This file was in the Legal and Investigation Division until the end of the year 2024 and was received by the Religious Division in the first quarter of the year 2025. The activities of fulfilling the objectives are underway.</p> | <p>The necessary documents should be prepared with no delay and the objectives of the trust should be fulfilled.</p> |

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| <p>(vi) The Buddhist Institute Development Trust was established by DiviyagahaYasassi Thero on 07 November 2007 with a capital of Rs. 5,000 for the objective of investing money for the future development of the Buddhist Institute, expanding the social welfare services in the temple, and implementing Dhamma propagation programs to create a religious, social and cultural revival in the mindsets of the Buddhist people. Considering the request made by DiviyagahaYasassiThero on the same day to provide a sum of One million Rupees for the charitable activities of the above trust, the said amount had been paid as a loan from the C. E. Wanigasuriya estate account which is an another trust, and the steps had not been taken to recover the said amount. It was observed that the money was not used for the purposes of the trusts due to lending money from a trust established for a different purpose to another trust.</p> | <p>The letters have been sent in the year 2024 informing DiviyagahaYasassiThero and the Thero said in his letter dated 08.10.2024 that the Thero was suffering from a very serious ailment and a large amount of money is required for the treatments. He has also requested to release him from the said condition by settling this amount from a charitable trust of the public trustee. Due to the above particulars, further recovery of that money has been difficult. Therefore, the steps are being taken to hand over the file to the Legal and Investigation Division for further actions</p> | <p>The capital of a trust should be used for the purpose of the respective trust.</p> |
| <p>(vii) The D.S. W. Samarakoon Charitable Trust has been established by the last will written by Don Simon Wijewickrama in the year 1950 and the public trustee had been requested to construct a ward in the hospital proposed to be built in Piliyandala; which is the objective of the trust, using the rental income and profits from the immovable and movable properties of Don Simon Wijewickrama and to name the ward in the name of his late mother. The steps had not been taken to construct the ward in that hospital even at present and only donations of other goods (non-medical equipment) had been made outside the primary purpose.</p> | <p>One of the objectives as specified by the last will is to construct a ward in the hospital proposed to be built in Piliyandala. We do not have information on whether the said hospital was constructed or not. Instead, requests have been made for the renovation of the dressing unit and the kitchen where food is prepared for the patients. A request for relevant information has been sent by letter dated 29 November 2023 and subsequent inquiries have been made by letters dated 12 February 2024 and 03 July 2025. However, no information has been</p> | <p>The objectives of the trust should be fulfilled by carrying out follow-ups repeatedly.</p> |

received to date.

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| (d) | According to Section 47 (1) of the Public Trustee Ordinance, the accounts of the Public Trustee should be audited at least once a year and at any time if the Minister so direct, by a prescribed person and in the prescribed manner. However, no such audit has been conducted. | An audit of the trust accounts has not been carried out to date after the preparation of the final accounts of the trusts annually. | The proceedings should be done as per the Department of Public Trustee Ordinance. |
| (e) | As per the Section 4(4) of the Public Trustee Ordinance, such legal officers and other staff as may be necessary to assist the Public Trustee or any Deputy Public Trustee in the administration of the Ordinance can be appointed and as per the Section 52 of the Ordinance, the Minister should make rules for the purposes of carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance or for any or all of the functions specified in the section. According to the Section 52(1) (I) of the Ordinance, the rules should be made in respect of the matters necessary for making rules to be prescribed under this Ordinance. However, no specific approved procedure had been established for the administration of trusts and properties of the Department. | The rules will be formulated and the steps will be taken to follow a formal recruitment system. | A recruitment procedure should be developed by setting rules in accordance with the Act. |
| (f) | Even if there was a Circular No. PT/10/01/01/10/07, which came into force from 1 January 2008, titled "Implementation of the Report of the Special Committee on the Study of Estate Administration in the Department", for estate administration activities, the said circular had not been put in force as a rule. | This circular has not been put in force as a rule. However, the Public Trustees have used it as a guideline at appropriate occasions. | The rules should be made in accordance with the Act. |

- (g) The following recommendations of the Committee on Public Accounts in respect of the management of the estate property transferred to the Public Trustee on 08 May 2024 had not been implemented.
- Although it had been recommended to urgently prepare an appropriate mechanism by getting the involvement of the District/Divisional Secretaries of the 25 districts to carry out the administration of the estate and property transferred to the Public Trustee on a regional basis by amending the Ordinance by taking advice from the Attorney General or obtaining the relevant permission from the District Courts, the mechanism had not been prepared at present to carry out the administration of the estate and property on a regional basis.
 - Although it had been recommended to prepare a document containing the particulars about the various ways in which the assets are received by the Public Trustee, when each asset was received, by whom the transfer was made, and the conditions related to the transfer, such a document had not been prepared even as at 31 August 2025.
- The Public Trustee Ordinance does not contain the provisions to assign the regional basis implementation of the administration of the estate property; entrusted to the Public Trustee, to the Divisional Secretariats. The Minister or the Secretary to the Ministry has not given us any written instructions on the transfer of the administration of the estate property to the Divisional Secretariats for implementation on regional basis.
- However, the necessary support is already being obtained from the Divisional Secretariats as and when required and appropriate for the administration of the property owned by the Department of Public Trustee and in the payment of compensation to the employees who have died abroad.
- A copy of the report containing details regarding the property transferred to the department has been attached herewith.
- The support of the District/ Divisional Secretary should be obtained to fulfill the objectives of the trust.
- A register containing details of all trusts and estates administered by the department should be prepared.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to leasing out the estates that are experiencing losses, alternative methods such as deploying soldiers and prisoners to use these lands for more productive cultivation and other tasks have been suggested at the discussions with institutions such as the Sri Lanka Army, Civil Defence Force or the Department of Prisons. However, such alternative methods have not been adopted in respect of the estates that are incurring losses, such as Suduwelipotha, Maluwahena and Mahenugalanda. | <p>The required steps are being taken to lease only the land plots that can be economically used for cultivation or for a certain task.</p> | <p>The actions should be taken in consultation with the relevant institutions to lease the estates incurring losses or utilize those for productive cultivation.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if the quotations were called for the lease of 113 acres of land belonging to the Harry Hapugoda estate located in Baddegama, Galle, the highest bid received was lower than the expected government valuation. Consequently, the actions were not taken to lease the land. Although the Committee had instructed to call a new tender to lease out the said property, no steps had been taken to lease out the lands by calling tenders even by 31 August 2025. | <p>The actions will be taken to lease out the land in future by identifying the persons residing in the property since before the transfer and other weaknesses existing in the leasing process.</p> | <p>Lands should be leased by re-calling the quotations.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although it had been informed to prepare a classified periodical list of the reasons for the delay in the payment of temple compensation for 417 temples and the amount of money to be paid, such a list had been prepared and however the reasons for the delay had not been | <p>The powers vested in the Public Trustee under the amendment of Chapter 318 of the Vihara Devalagam Ordinance regarding the properties of the Buddhist shrine have been vested in the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs by virtue of the amendment made to the said Act No. 42 of 1981. Accordingly, the Public</p> | <p>A register containing the particulars about the reasons for the delays of paying the temple compensations of which the payments have been delayed and the amounts to be paid should be prepared.</p> |

mentioned.

Trustee does not have power to grant temple compensation or to utilize temple compensation as required by the beneficiaries who receive the temple compensation. Only the orders of the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs can be implemented.

- The balance of Rs. 59,145,636, which was being identified from before the year 1991; included in the unpaid foreign compensation amount from the year 2009 or before, had not been identified even as at 31 August 2025. It has been mentioned as unpaid compensation in the year 2009 and before based on the documents currently available with us, and it is not possible therein to certainty verify those. The actions should be taken to identify unpaid foreign compensation
- The attention of the Committee had been drawn to the absence of a Tamil translation among the recommendations in respect of updating the information on the website of the Department of Public Trustee, a Tamil translation had not been done on the website of the Department of Public Trustee in this regard including the services being provided by the department, necessary applications and information related to properties. As per the recommendations of the Committee on Public Enterprises, applications related to the services provided by the Department were uploaded on the Sinhala and English web pages. The applications were prepared in Tamil and those applications and the information will be uploaded on the Tamil web page soon. A Tamil translation of the applications related to services provided by the Department should be included on the website of the Department.