

Head 106 - Report of the Auditor General on the Ministry of Disaster Management and Department under the Ministry – Year 2013

---

This report consists of two Parts.

Part 1 - Summary Report on the Accounts of the Ministry and the Department under the Ministry

Part 2 - Detailed Report on each Appropriation Head

**Part I**

---

Summary report on the Accounts of the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Department under the Ministry

---

1. **Department under the Ministry**

Head	Name of the Department
-----	-----
304	Department of Meteorology

2. **Accounts**

---

2.1 **Total Provision and Expenditure**

---

The total net provision made for the Ministry and the Department under the Ministry amounted to Rs.2,031,618,282 and out of that a sum of Rs.1,768,632,488 had been utilized as at the end of the year under review. Accordingly, the savings of the Ministry and the Department out of the net provision had been Rs.260,193,410 and Rs.2,792,384 respectively or ranged between 14.6 per cent and 1.1 per cent of the net provision. Particulars are given below.

<u>Head</u>	<u>As at 31 December 2013</u>			<u>Savings as a Percentage of Net Provision</u>
	<u>Net Provision</u>	<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Saving</u>	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
106	1,781,683,282	1,521,489,872	260,193,410	14.6
304	249,935,000	247,142,616	2,792,384	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,031,618,282</b>	<b>1,768,632,488</b>	<b>262,985,794</b>	<b>12.9</b>

## 2.2 **Advance Accounts**

### 2.2.1 **Advances to Public Officers Account**

#### **Limits Authorized by Parliament**

The limits authorized by the Parliament for advances to Public Officers Accounts on the Ministry and the Department under the Ministry and the actual values are given below.

Item No.	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Debit balance</u>	
	Maximum Limit	Actual	Minimum Limit	Actual	Maximum Limit	Actual
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
10601	4,000,000	2,850,000	2,500,000	2,796,807	16,000,000	9,270,146
30401	13,000,000	9,352,585	5,500,000	9,068,808	70,000,000	31,725,213

## 2.3 **General Deposit Accounts**

The total of the balances of the General Deposits Accounts of the Ministry and the Department under the Ministry as at 31 December 2013 amounted to Rs.9,535,041. Details appear below.

Ministry / Department	Deposit Account No.	Balance as at 31 December 2013
-----	-----	-----
		Rs.
Ministry of Disaster Management	6000/0000/00/0015/0020/000	157,563
Department of Meteorology	6000/0000/00/0015/0159/000	9,377,478
		-----
Total		9,535,041
		=====

## Part 2

-----

### Detailed Report relating to each Head

#### 1. Head 106 – Ministry of Disaster Management

##### 1.1 Scope of Audit

The audit of the appropriation account of the Ministry of Disaster Management for the year ended 31 December 2013 comprising the financial reports, reconciliation statements books and other records was carried out in pursuance of provision in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The management audit report for the year under review had been issued to the Secretary to the Ministry on 13 October 2014. Audit observations, comments and findings on accounts and reconciliation statements were based on review of accounts and reconciliation statements presented to audit and substantive tests of samples of transactions. The scope and extent of such review and tests were such as to enable as wide an audit coverage as possible within the limitations of staff, other resources and time available to me.

## **1.2 Responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer for Accounts and Reconciliation Statements**

---

Chief Accounting Officer is responsible for the maintenance, preparation and fair presentation of the Appropriation Accounts and reconciliation statements in accordance with the provisions in Articles 148, 149, 150 and 152 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka other Statutory Provisions Public Finance and Administration Regulations. This responsibility includes designing implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of accounts and reconciliation statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

## **1.3 Audit Observation**

---

According to the Financial Records and Books for the year ended 31 December 2013, it was observed that except for the effects of the general observations appearing at (a) and (b) and other major audit findings appearing in paragraph 1.4 to 1.8 herein, the Appropriation Accounts and reconciliation Statements of the Ministry of Disaster Management had been prepared satisfactorily.

### **(a) Non-maintenance of Registers and Books**

---

Even though the Ministry had maintained the Register of Loss and Damage, it had not been properly maintained and updated.

### **(b) Budgetary Variance**

---

The following observations are made.

- (i) The entire net provision amounting to Rs.13,000,000 made under an Object had been saved.

- (ii) Excess provisions had been made for 02 Objects and as such the savings thereunder after utilizing the provisions ranged between 50 per cent and 96 per cent of the net provisions relating to those Objects.
- (iii) Supplementary provisions amounting to Rs. 1,301,381,753 made under 12 Objects and a sum of Rs. 198,896,844 had been saved from those supplementary Provisions as at end of the year under review, representing 15.29 per cent of the total supplementary provisions.

## **1.4 Good Governance and Accountability**

-----

### **1.4.1 Annual Action Plan**

-----

Even though an Action Plan had been prepared by the Ministry in terms of paragraph 1.4.1 of the letter of the Director General of Public Finance No. PF/R/2/2/3/5(4) of March 2010, the activities which had been scheduled to be completed during the year under review by the Ministry had not been included to the plan except including the expenditure mentioned in the budgetary estimates as it is.

### **1.4.2 Internal Audit**

-----

Even though an Internal Audit Unit had been in operation, a permanent Auditor had not been appointed. An acting officer had been appointed and a sufficient audit had not been conducted during the year under review.

### **1.4.3 Assets Management**

-----

#### **Conducting Annual Boards of Survey**

-----

Following observations are made.

- (i) In terms of the Public Finance Circular No. 441 of 09 December 2009 as amended by the letter of the Director General of Public Finance No. PF/ Board of survey/ 01 of December 2010, the board of survey for 2013 should be carried out and the report should be furnished to the Auditor General on or

before 31 March 2014. However, these reports of the Ministry had been furnished to audit 31 July 2014 after a delay of 04 months and reports relating two Disaster Relief Centers had been submitted to audit on 02 December 2014 after a delay of 07 months.

- (ii) Actions had not been taken in terms of Financial Regulation 760 with regard to 03 deficits pointed out in the board of survey reports of the year 2013 are other recommendations.

**1.6 Non-compliances**

**-----  
Non-compliances with Laws, Rules, Regulations etc.  
-----**

Instances of non-compliance with provisions of laws, rules and regulations observed in audit test checks are analyzed below.

**Reference to Laws, Rules, Regulations etc.**

**Non-compliance**

-----  
Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
-----

Financial Regulation 1645

Log books of the vehicles of the Ministry had not been updated.

Financial Regulation 1647 (a)

Even though a register should be maintained with regard to the consumer item purchases and issues made for 27 vehicles of the Ministry, it had not been so done.

Financial Regulation 1647 (e)

Even though a register for vehicles should be maintained with regard to 27 vehicles belong to the Ministry, it had not been so done.

## 1.7 Performances

-----  
According to the budgetary estimates for the year 2013, the observations relating to the progress of the Ministry are given below.

- (a) Actions had been taken by the National Relief Service Centre to provide a sum of Rs. 425,000,000 through a supplementary provision during the year under review for the damages coursed to the houses in 22 districts, under the relives making to general public in an emergency situation and rehabilitation of calamitous areas. Accordingly, details had been provided in order to obtain assistances for fully damage houses of 2,138 and half damage houses of 9,950 respectively in 22 Districts and provisions amounting to Rs. 344,181,440 had been given thereon. However, the details relating to actual number of houses that provisions had been given were not furnished to the National Relief Service Center by the District Secretariats up to 31 October 2014.
- (b) The estimates amounting to Rs. 157,759,564 had been made for providing of dried food items and death donations to the disastrous public and a sum of Rs. 140,314,487 had been released to the 25 Districts. Details relating to distribution of those food items and death donation had not been furnished to audit.

## 1.8 Human Resources Management

### (a) Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre

-----  
Cadre position as at 31 December 2013 was as follows.

Category of Employee	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Vacancies
-----	-----	-----	-----
(i) Senior level	23	15	08
(ii) Tertiary level	04	03	01
(iii) Secondary level	443	393	50
(iv) Primary level	47	38	09
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>68</b>
	=====	=====	=====

Two posts of the Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the National Relief Service Centre had been vacant for about 3 years. Action had not been taken by the Institute to fill 68 vacancies by the end of the year under review.

**(b) Improper Release of Human Resources to Other Parties**

-----

A Development Officer had been released to the National Relief Service Centre from month of October during the year under review and actions had not been taken to recover the salaries amounting to Rs. 309,778 paid by the Ministry up to September 2014.

**2. Head 304 – Department of Meteorology**

-----

**2.1 Scope of Audit**

-----

The audit of the appropriation account of the Department of Meteorology for the year ended 31 December 2013, comprising the financial records, reconciliation statements, books and other records was carried out in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The management audit report for the year under review had been issued to the Director General of the Department on 31 October 2014. Audit Observations, comments and findings on accounts and reconciliation statements were based on a review of the accounts and reconciliation statements presented to audit and substantive tests of samples of transactions. The scope and extent of such review and tests were such as to enable as wide an audit coverage as possible within the limitations of staff, other resources and time available to me.

**2.2 Responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer for the Accounts and Reconciliation Statements**

-----

Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer are responsible for the maintenance, preparation and fair presentation of the Appropriation Account and



reconciliation statements in accordance with the provisions in Articles 148, 149, 150 and 152 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, other statutory provisions, Public Finance and Administrative Regulations. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of accounts and reconciliation statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

### 2.3 **Audit Observation**

-----  
According to the Financial Records and Books for the year ended 31 December 2013, it was observed that except for the effects of the general observation appearing from (a) to (c) and major audit findings appearing in paragraph 2.4 to 2.8 herein, the Appropriation Account and Reconciliation Statement of the Department of Meteorology had been prepared satisfactorily.

#### **(a) Budgetary Variance**

-----  
The following observations are made.

- (i) The entire net provision amounting to Rs.42,000 made under 01 Object had been saved.
- (ii) The savings from 11 Objects as at end of the year under review amounted to Rs. 117,859 and the total liabilities of those Objects as at that date amounted to Rs. 5,566,302. Accordingly, exceeding the savings from the provisions as at end of the year under review it had been committed to liabilities amounted to Rs. 5,448,443.
- (iii) Liabilities relating to 6 Objects totalling Rs. 27,183 had not been shown in the Appropriation Account.
- (iv) Liabilities relating to one Object had been overstated by Rs. 16,100.

## **(b) General Deposit Accounts**

-----

The following observations are made.

Total of the balances of the Deposits Accounts of the Departments as at 31 December 2013 amounted to Rs. 9,377,478 and actions had not been taken in terms of Financial Regulation 571 with regard to 04 deposits amounting to Rs. 3,155,562 remaining over 02 years.

## **(c) Reconciliation Statement for Advances to Public Officers Account**

-----

Debtor balance as at 31 December 2013 amounted to Rs. 172,479 recoverable for over 10 years from 3 officers who had vacated their posts.

## **2.4 Good Governance and Accountability**

-----

### **2.4.1 Assets Management**

-----

#### **Idle and underutilized Assets**

-----

It was observed in audit test check that following assets had been kept in idle or underutilized

<b>Category of Asset</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Period of Idle or Underutilized</b>
-----	-----	-----
<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>05</b>	
-----		
- WF 03 Radar Machine		22 years
- WF 33 Plessey Radar Machine		02 years
- RSGE 10 Indian RADIO SONDE Machine		03 years
- RSGE 4250 Indian RADIO SONDE Machine		28 years
- Gale Indicating Radar Machine		07 years

## 2.6 Non-compliances

### Non-compliance with Laws, Rules, Regulations etc.

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

<b>Reference to Laws, Rules, Regulations etc.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Non-compliance</b>
-----	-----	-----
	Rs.	
(a) Establishment Code		
-----		
Sections 4.2.1,4.2.4,4,2,5 and 4.5 of Chapter XXIV	172,479	Action had not been taken to recover the loan balances receivable from 03 officers who had vacated their posts.
(b) Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka		
-----		
Financial Regulation 104	27,826	Action had not been taken in terms of Financial Regulation relating to 02 motor vehicle accidents amounted Rs. 27,826 of the year under review.

## 2.7 Performance

### Key Functions not Performed Adequately

Following observations are made

#### (a) Installation of Doppler Radar System

Action had been taken to install new Doppler Radar System on the Gongala mountains in Deniyaya Region in order to effectively observe the rainy and other weather conditions of the country. It was mentioned that the observations of the Doppler Radar Equipment with regard to the weather conditions leads to rain effects, cyclones and related wind conditions can be immediately seen from the National Meteorology Centre, main operational unit in Colombo Head office, and

it would help make prior wariness relating to bad weather conditions. To purchase this radar system and to construct 23 meters height concrete tower, a sum of Rs. 1,250,579,395 had been provided from the year 2006 to 31 December 2013 and out of that a sum of Rs. 402,825,422 had been incurred.

Following observations are made in this regard.

- (i) An agreement had been signed with World Meteorological Organization on 24 May 2007 in order to purchase this radar system. According to the Action Plan of the year 2008, it had been scheduled to start the procurement activities in 2007, and expected to install the machine and commence the operations by end of the year 2010. Also, it had been informed that possibility of the completion of installation activities of the Doppler Radar System during the year 2010 at the co-ordination meeting held in 2008.

The construction contract for the construction of the tower that use for install the Doppler Rader System had been awarded to the Central Engineering and Construction Bureau (CECB) for Rs. 60,452,000 (including VAT) on 12 March 2010 enforcing condition to complete the construction activities within 120 days. According to the construction programme attached to the agreement, commencing date of the construction was 15 March 2010 and the works should be completed by 27 August 2010. However, after making changes to the completion date time to time the construction works of the tower had been completed by 31 December 2013. Nevertheless, proper handing over activities of the tower had not been finalized up to 30 September 2014.

- (ii) The agreement entered into with the World Meteorological Organization for purchasing and installation of the Radar Equipment was ceased after 5 years i.e. on 23 May 2012. However, although the installation activities of the Radar Equipment were not completed so far, action had not been taken to extend the date of the agreement up to 30 September 2014.
- (iii) Even though a Steering Committee had been appointed to implement the Project, any meeting in order to take follow-up actions of the Project had not been held.

- (iv) Actions had not been taken to made an additional agreement relating to the changes made for construction works of the Radar Tower and for the construction period and penalties for delaying period had not been charged according to the prevailing agreement.

**(b) Radar Division**

-----

It is the duty of the Radar Division to send radar balloons 3 set times in every day in order to collect the meteorological data of the upper region of the sky such as speed of the wind, direction, temperature, humidity and vacuum in the air etc. However, 3 radar balloons, one balloon per day, in 3 days in the morning time during a week and 2 observation balloons in next 2 days of the week had been released by this Division. It was observed that the data relating to speed of the wind and direction were only observed from these observation balloons.

Even though the data obtained from the radar balloons are more important for the meteorological predictions, 4 days including 2 days of which use of observation balloons and other 2 days of which balloons are not released, the data such as humidity, temperature, clouds, rains, and the air pressure could not be collected. The Director General of the Department of Meteorology had explained that due to the heavy costs that had to be incurred to obtain data by using radar balloons, it had to be limited obtaining of data from said method.

**(c) Climate Division**

-----

Data summarizing, checking the accuracy of data, releasing of meteorological data to the required parties from the raw observation data books that comprises of meteorological data obtained from the Head office and 23 Provincial Offices in 3 hourly basis, are the functions of this Division. According to the approved cadre of the Division there should be 7 meteorologists, but there were only 2 meteorologists in the

Division. Also, it had not been conducted checking the accuracy of data and summarizing of them relating to the first 6 months of the year 2013.

## 2.8 Human Resources Management

-----  
 Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre  
 -----

Cadre Position as at 31 December 2013 was given below.

	<b>Category of Employees</b>	<b>Approved Cadre</b>	<b>Actual Cadre</b>	<b>Number of Vacancies</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----
(i)	Senior Level	54	29	25
(ii)	Tertiary Level	29	05	24
(iii)	Secondary Level	238	181	57
(iv)	Primary Level	140	115	25
		-----	-----	-----
	Total	461	330	131
		=====	=====	=====

The Department had failed to fill 131 vacancies at the end of the year under review.