

14 Head 12 - National Education Commission

14.1 Non- maintenance of Registers and Books

It was observed during the course of audit test checks that the National Education Commission had not maintained certain registers while another register had not been maintained in the proper and updated manner as shown below.

Type of Registers	Relevant Regulation	Observations
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(a) Register of Computers, Accessories and Software	Treasury Circular No. IAI/2002/02 of 28 November 2002	Not maintained
(b) Register of Security	Financial Regulation 891(1)	Not maintained.
(c) Register of Fixed Assets	Treasury Circular No.842 of 19 December 1978.	Not updated.

14.2 Appropriation Account

Budgetary Variance

The entire provisions of Rs.325,000 made for 2 Objects had been saved .Excess provisions had been made for 8 Objects and as such the Savings, after the utilization of provisions, ranged between 11 per cent and 58 per cent of the net provisions relating to the respective Objects.

14.3 Imprest Account

Advances amounting to Rs.1,103,615 had been granted in 31 instances in the year under review in connection with the meetings and workshops of the Commission. Out of that a sum of Rs.582,467 or 52 per cent had been settled in cash without being spent. Advances amounting to Rs.450,000 at the rate of Rs.75,000 per officer had been granted to 06 officers for the settlement of the expenses of the programme without Treasury approval and without identifying the specific expenditure.

14.4 Good Governance and Accountability

14.4.1 Annual Action Plan

The updated Organization Chart, the particulars of Staff and the imprest requirement plan had not been included in the Action Plan of the Commission in terms of the Public Finance Circular No.01/2014 of 17 December 2014. That plan revised on 30 October 2014 had not been approved by the Commission.

14.4.2 Annual Procurement Plan

The Annual Procurement Plan had not been approved by the Commission. Five units of office machinery and equipment valued at Rs.302,600 not included in the plan had been purchased.

14.4.3 Internal Audit

An internal audit had not been carried out from the inception up to 25 June 2015.

14.5 Non-compliances

(a) Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations.

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

Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations	Value	Non-compliance
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	Rs.	
Financial Regulations of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka		
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(i) Financial Regulation 262(2)	768,709	The "PAID" seal had not been stamped on to supporting documents of 28 payment vouchers.

- (ii) Financial Regulation 261(1) 296,205 The vouchers in the cash book had not been numbered according to consecutive order in 11 instances. Instances where vouchers were numbered consecutively, it was observed that the cheque numbers have not been in the consecutive order.

(b) Non- compliance with Tax Requirements

According to paragraph 05 of the Public Finance Circular 364(3) of 30 September 2002, the value added tax exceeding Rs.25,000 paid by the Government institutions should be reported to the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue with a copy to the Auditor General before the fifteenth day of the month following. But the Returns of the Value Added Tax of Rs.550,800 paid on the building rent of the Commission amounting to Rs.5,140,800 had not been so reported.

14.6 Performance

The observation on the performance of the Commission according to the Action Plan for the year 2014 are given below.

Functions not performed adequately

The particulars of the key functions not performed adequately by the Commission are given below.

- (a) Formulation of the policy proposals on the general education and obtain the approval of the Commission and printing.
- (b) Formulation of criteria from the data collected from the provinces under the preparation of a data base for the third category schools.
- (c) Preparation of the final report on the research on implementation of Technology subject stream of the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level).
- (d) Collection of data on the enrolling of Teacher Students to the National Colleges of Education and the criteria considered therein, analysis and preparation of the report.

- (e) Editing of the draft report on the use and standardization of the Sinhala Language and preparation of the final report.
- (f) Collection of information through a field survey under the preparation of policies for the university education, analysis of data and preparation of report.
- (g) Preparation of a Staff Plan by collection of private data of the staff.

14.7 Irregular Transactions

Three air conditioners had been purchased for Rs.285,600 at the rate of Rs.95,200 per unit. The purchase had been made from the eighth bidder without a recommendation from Technical Evaluation Committee including an officer with the technical knowledge and rejecting the lowest bid of Rs.70,784 without adducing reasons. Accordingly an over payment of Rs.73,248 had been made for 3 machines.

14.8 Uneconomic Transactions

According to the information revealed during the course of test checks, despite conducting 2 workshops at a cost of Rs.320,650 on the preparation of the midterm plan of the institution, the Mid Term Plan could not be prepared by the Commission. A sum of Rs.30,000 had been paid to a person as the resource person allowance for a one day workshop by inappropriately applying the provision in the Public Finance Circular No. 449 of 21 February 2014 for “the supply of short term urgent services that cannot be supplied from the institution”.

14.9 Management Weaknesses

The following observations were made during the course of audit test checks.

- (a) An officer responsible for work of the library had not been permanently appointed and physical survey of the library books had not been carried out from the inception of the Commission. There were instances of failure to return the books borrowed from the library or delays in the return of the books. Even though periods ranging from 10 months to 4 years had elapsed after borrowing 4 books by three persons including two officers retired and transferred, those books had not been returned even by 25 June 2015.
- (b) Instead of recruiting a permanent officer to the post of Programme Officer (Information) included in the approved cadre, the services of short term trainees

had been used for the performance of duties of the data bank established in the year 2010 by utilization of financial aid of Rs.938,600 from the Education Sector Development Project with the objective of collection of information obtained from different sources and analyse such information formally for use as a base for decision making.

14.10 Human Resources Management

Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre

The position of the cadre as at 31 December 2014 had been as follows.

	Category of Employees	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Number of Vacancies
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(i)	Senior Level	02	02	-
(ii)	Tertiary Level	06	06	-
(iii)	Secondary Level	16	12	04
(iv)	Primary Level	12	12	-
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	Total	36	32	04
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