

Report of the Auditor General on Head 203- Department of Christian Religious Affairs- Year 2016

The audit of the Appropriation Account and the Reconciliation Statements including the financial records, books, registers and other records on the Head 203 Department of Christian Religious Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2016 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 was issued to the Director of the Department on 20 November 2017. The audit observations, comments and findings on the accounts and reconciliation statements were based on a review of the Accounts and Reconciliation Statements presented to audit and 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 and the Accounting Officer on the

Accounts and Reconciliation Statements

The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer are responsible for the maintenance, preparation and fair presentation of the Appropriation Account and the Reconciliation Statements in accordance with the provisions in Article 148,149,150 and 152 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, other Statutory Provisions, and Public Finance and Administrative Regulations. The responsibility includes, designing, implementing, 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. Accounts

2.1 Appropriation Account

Total Provision and Expenditure

The total net provision made for the Department amounted to Rs.176.37 million and out of that Rs.159.74 million had been utilized by the end of the year under review. Accordingly, the savings out of the total net provision made for the Department had been Rs.16.63 million or 9.43 per cent. Details appear below.

Expenditure	As at 31 December 2016			Savings as a percentage of Net Provision
	Net Provision	Utilization	Savings	
	Rs. Millions	Rs. Millions	Rs. Millions	
Recurrent	152.27	137.91	14.36	9.43
Capital	24.10	21.83	2.27	9.42
Total	176.37	159.74	16.63	9.43

2.2 Advances to Public Officers Account

Limits Authorized by Parliament

The limits authorized by Parliament for the Advances to Public Officers Account Item No.20301 of the Department and the actual amounts are given below.

Expenditure		Receipts		Debit Balance	
Maximum Limit	Actual	Minimum Limit	Actual	Maximum Limit	Actual
Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions
2.00	1.99	0.70	0.96	6.50	3.92

2.3 Audit Observation

The Appropriation Account and Reconciliation Statements of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2016 had been prepared satisfactorily subject to the Audit Observations appearing in the Management Audit Report referred to in paragraph 1.1 above. The material and significant Audit Observations out of the Audit Observations included in that Management Audit Report appear in paragraph 3.

3. Material and Significant Audit Observations

3.1 Appropriation Account

Budgetary Variance

Excess provisions had been made for 03 Objects and as such savings after the utilization of provisions ranged from 33 per cent to 88 per cent of the net provisions relating to the respective Objects.

3.2 Reconciliation Statement on Advances to Public Officers Account

According to the Reconciliation Statement of the Advances to Public Officers Account Item No.20301 as at 31 December 2016 the outstanding balance as at that date totalled Rs.40,178 and, a sum of Rs.20,000 of those outstanding balances had been recovered in the year 2017. The balance further recoverable amounted to Rs.20,178.

3.3 Good Governance and Accountability

3.3.1 Annual Action Plan

Numerical values such as the number of programmes implemented in the Churches, Monasteries, Diocese which receive benefits and the number of Dhamma School Teachers who receive benefits had not been stated excluding the financial values under each Object, in the Annual Action Plan prepared by the Department. As such, comparative information could not be obtained by the Annual Action Plan and the Annual Performance Report.

3.3.2 Internal Audit

The Department had prepared an Internal Audit Programme in a manner which covers 27 Items under 3 Sectors for the year 2016. However, internal audit activities had not been carried out in terms of the Management Audit Circular No.DMA/2009(1) of 09 June 2009.

3.4 Performance

Key functions not executed adequately

Christian Literary Festival

A total sum of Rs.1,020,964 had been provided to 11 Diocese for Deanery and Diocese Drama Competitions in the Christian Literary Festival in the year 2016. Payments had been made in various amounts in each Diocese in making payments for the judges of the competitions in the Christian Literary Festival. As such, it was observed that the Department had not acted with a common agreement in making payments to the judges of the competitions.

3.5 Human Resources Management

Approved Cadre and Actual Cadre

The position on the cadre as at 31 December 2016 had been as follows.

Category of Employees	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Number of Vacancies
(i) Senior Level	03	02	01
(ii) Secondary Level	01	-	01
(iii) Tertiary Level	55	35	20
(iv) Primary Level	07	04	03
Total	66	41	25

The following observation is made.

Even though the total number of employees of the Approved Cadre of the Department being 66, the staff engaged in service as at 31 December 2016 had been 41. As such, vacancies of 25 employees were observed. The post of the Accountant remains vacant from a period of 04 years and the post of the Administrative Officer remained vacant since the commencement of the Department.