

Head 411 – State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

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1. Financial Statements

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1.1 Qualified Opinion

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The audit of the financial statements of the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended, 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 including my comments and observations on the financial statements of the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness was issued to the Accounting Officer on 01 June 2021 in terms of Sub-section 11 (1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 and the Detailed Annual Management Audit Report relating to the State Ministry in terms of Sub-section 11 (2) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 was issued to the Accounting Officer on 15 November 2021. This report will be presented in Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (6) of the Constitution 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 of the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness give a true and fair view of the financial position of the State Ministry as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

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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 (SLAuSSs). My responsibilities, under those audit standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 Responsibilities of Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer for the Financial Statements

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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 in terms of Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for such internal control as the 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 State Ministry is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared of the State Ministry.

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 State Ministry and carry out periodic reviews to monitor the effectiveness of such system 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

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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 the report of the Auditor General 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:

- 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 State Ministry'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 and Regulatory Requirements

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

As the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness was newly established in the year 2020, no financial statements were presented for the preceding year. As such, it is not possible to express that the financial statements of the year under review are consistent with the preceding year, and no recommendations were made by me for the preceding year.

## 1.6 Comments on Financial Statements

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### 1.6.1 Presentation of Accounts

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In the preparation of financial statements as per Section 3.5 of the Public Finance Circular, No. 02/2020, the difference between the total net provision and the actual expenditure along with reasons for the difference with respect to every Object under each item code of expenditure should be shown in the Format ACA – 2 (II). However, two or more Objects had been added together before being shown in the said Format.

### 1.6.2 Non-maintenance of Registers and Books

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Some of the following registers had not been maintained by the Ministry, and it was observed in audit test checks that certain registers had not been maintained properly and in an updated manner.

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
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(a) The register of liabilities had not been maintained in an updated manner by recording all the liabilities in terms of Financial Regulation 214.	Following your observations, action will be taken in due course to maintain a single register.	Liabilities should be recorded in a register of liabilities in terms of Financial Regulation 214 so that the records of liabilities would be examined regularly.
(b) A register of vehicles had not been maintained with accurate data in terms of Financial Regulation 1647(e). Furthermore, the Audit was not provided with any information whatsoever on the vehicles being used/used by the projects being implemented / abandoned by the Ministry. It was also observed that those vehicles had not been recorded in the list of vehicles maintained by the Ministry.	Action is being taken to update the register so that the vehicles obtained through the projects would be identified.	The register of vehicles should be maintained up-to-date in terms of Financial Regulation 1647(e).

### 1.6.3 Certifications of the Accounting Officer

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>According to provisions under Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the Accounting Officer should ensure that an effective internal control system for the financial control exists in the Ministry, 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. Such reviews should be carried out in writing, and a copy thereof should be presented to the Auditor General, but no statements had been furnished to the Audit that the reviews had been carried out.</p>	<p>An effective internal control system for the financial control of the Ministry has been prepared. The relevant updates, and modification of systems have been done by the officers of the Ministry in accordance with observations made by the Internal Audit Unit.</p>	<p>Provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 should be followed.</p>

### 1.6.4 Exceeding Limits

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>The limit of minimum receipts approved under Advances to Public Officers Account, No. 41101 was Rs.4,200,000. However, the minimum limit could not be reached as the Ministry had recovered only a sum of Rs.3,999,074.</p>	<p>It has been informed that the Department of National Budget has taken action to revise the limits, and the Auditor General has been informed in that connection.</p>	<p>Transactions should be performed within the limits approved for the Advances to Public Officers Account.</p>

## 2. Financial Review

### 2.1 Imprest Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>Provision amounting to Rs.2,258,391,881 made by Parliament had been saved as the Treasury had not issued imprests for 02 capital Objects and a recurrent Object as planned during the year.</p>	<p>Agreed with the observation.</p>	<p>Planning on imprests should be done in a realistic manner.</p>

## 2.2 Expenditure Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Provision totaling Rs. 1,050,000 made on 04 recurrent Objects, and the provision of Rs. 10,000,000 made on a capital Object, had been saved in full.	The observation is correct. Reasons for savings have been explained.	The Financial Regulations should be followed.
(b) A budgetary provision of Rs.1,000,000 had been made under the Object-stationeries and office requirements whilst a sum of Rs. 2,000,000 had been transferred in terms of Financial Regulation 66. In addition to that, a sum of Rs. 3,700,000 had been obtained on 31 December 2020 through a supplementary estimate. Nevertheless, the sum of Rs.2,000,000 transferred through Financial Regulation 66 had been saved in full.	As no requirement had arisen, the provision had been saved.	- Do.

## 2.3 Incurring Liabilities and Commitments

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Liabilities should not be incurred in excess of provision as per Financial Regulation 94(1). Nevertheless, liabilities worth Rs. 1,396,421 had been incurred with respect to 02 Objects in excess of net provision.	Agreed with the observation. The liabilities referenced by the Urban Settlement Development Authority functioning under the Ministry, have been shown thereunder.	Liabilities should not be incurred by exceeding the provision as per Financial Regulation 94(1).

2.4 Non-compliances with Laws, Rules, and Regulations

Instances of non-compliances with provisions of Laws, Rules and Regulations observed in audit test checks are analyzed below.

	Observation -----	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation -----
	Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations -----	Non-compliance -----	
(a)	Financial Regulation 702 (3) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.	All the contract agreements should be signed in triplicate by the Ministry and a copy should be furnished to the Auditor General . However, copies of the agreements required to verify such agreements that the Ministry had entered into, were not made available to the Audit.	Commitments incurred by the institutions such as, Urban Settlement Development Authority, Solid Waste Management Project, and Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Corporation had been shown here. Those agreements could be examined through the respective institutions.
(b)	Circular, No. DMA/SP/2015/01 of the Department of Management Audit dated 10 February 2016.	No surveys had been conducted on the vehicles pertaining to the Ministry and the project offices.	The Board of Survey had been appointed on 2021.06.11, and the survey conducted on the vehicles of the Ministry has been completed.
(c)	Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.3 of the Public Administration Circular, No. 30/2016 dated 29 December 2016.	Fuel consumption test is not properly done on the vehicles owned by the Ministry. The monthly running charts had not been maintained with respect to any of the vehicles belonging to the Ministry.	Fuel consumption test has been conducted for 03 pool vehicles. The test is being done for the rest of the vehicles. The officers have been informed to maintain monthly running charts. Instructions issued through Circulars should be followed.

3. Operating Review

3.1 Projects Abandoned without Completion

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) According to the Cabinet Decision dated 17 December 2015, approval had been given to establish project offices for the projects proposed under the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development such as, Aero city development project, western Region planning project, Maritime cities development project, Tech city development project, and Transportation development project thereby implementing such projects, and once the megapolis authority is established and incorporated, the said offices be vested therein. However, the Secretary to the Ministry had decided on 24 July 2020 that the said project offices be closed on 08 October 2020 and the Urban Development Authority be entrusted with the functions of those offices. Although the Ministry had incurred a sum of Rs.1,521,184 up to 30 September 2020 for establishing the megapolis authority, that Authority had not been established, and as such, the said expenditure had become fruitless.	Those project offices had been established under purview of the then Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development in terms of the Cabinet Paper, No. 15/1853/724/018 dated 30 November 2015. The said offices remained functional under the relevant scope. However, with the new Government coming into power, the subjects relevant to those projects were attached to the Urban Development Authority thus closing down the offices.	The projects should be completed within the specified timeframe thus ensuring commitment to the public.

- (b) As a long term solution for the heavy traffic congestion in Colombo, the Light Rail Transit Project had been commenced on 01 May 2017 under financial assistance from Japan. By the end of the year 2020, a sum totaling Rs.5545.63 million comprising a sum of Rs.4622.45 million from JICA funds and a sum of Rs.923.18 million from Treasury provision, had been incurred on that project. As the said project was expensive and not cost effective, it was informed through the Cabinet Decision, No. අම/20/1450/312/002 dated 06 October 2020 that the project office be closed and all the assets of the project be handed over to the Ministry of Transport or the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. As such, the expenses incurred became fruitless. Not replied. - Do.
- (c) The maritime cities development project had been implemented in view of completing the 03 components of , development of Recreational Beach Area from Kollupitiya to Dehiwala canal, activities relating to the proposed harbour, development of Kimbula Ela area (Bloemendal) and construction of the proposed supply service center, by 31 December 2020. Despite a sum of Rs. 170,388,967 being spent up to October 2020 on this project, it was observed that the project for the development of Bloehmendal area to provide supplies for the harbour and the project for construction of the proposed supply service center Action had been taken to implement only the project for developing the area near Bloehmendal garbage disposal site under second component. Action had been taken to conduct a feasibility study to include the third component into the development plan for Wattala. - Do.



in Wellisara, had been abandoned. This project had been vested in the Urban Development Authority on 10 August 2020.

- (d) It was expected to develop the area in which the towns of Malambe, Homagama, Kaduwela, and Athurugiriya had located, by dividing into 05 zones under the Tech City Development Project. The development process was scheduled to be commenced on 01 March 2017 and completed by 01 March 2023. Action had been taken to improve 04 roads under the development of infrastructure facilities-a component of the project, by incurring a sum of Rs. 238.7 million in the year 2020. A sum totaling Rs.146,215,139 had been spent during the period from 2017 to 31 December 2020 as salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the staff attached to the project management unit of the project. This project had been vested in the Urban Development Authority on 31 September 2020, but activities of the project had not been executed up to 30 October 2021.
- In order to develop infrastructure facilities under this project, action had been taken to improve 04 roads.
- Do.

### 3.2 Delays in Implementing Projects

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 The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
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<p>(a) Colombo Port City Development Project.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Plans were made to build the Colombo port city by reclaiming a maritime area of 269 hectares , commence the works on 01 January 2016 and complete by 31 December 2022. As of 31 December 2020, a sum of Rs.6,853.04 million had been spent on the development of infrastructure facilities of the project whilst a sum of Rs. 228.7 million had been incurred on maintenance works of the project office.</p> <p>A sum of Rs. 141.07 million had been allocated to construct 33 per cent of the south western sewage system of the project whereas a sum of Rs. 162 million had been allocated to construct 11 per cent of the northern sewage system within the year 2020. However, the financial progress thereof stood at 45 per cent and 31 per cent respectively as at 31 December 2020. Furthermore, the physical progress was observed to have been as low as 16 per cent and 3.3 per cent.</p>	<p>The sewage disposal project had been implemented under approval of the Cabinet, 18/0826/726/035 dated 18 May 2018. As both of the projects had been scheduled to be implemented by the Colombo Municipal Council, the provision required for the years 2018 and 2019 had been given to the Colombo Municipal Council through the Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government. However, the progress in constructions of both projects remained very poor due to delay in preliminary administration, planning and tender procedure, and the necessity for additional provision. A Cabinet approval was required afresh in that connection, and such an approval has not yet been given. As such, constructions of those projects had come to a halt since the year 2020. Action is being taken to obtain Cabinet approval.</p>	<p>Approval of the Cabinet should be obtained promptly thereby expediting the project implementation.</p>

- (b) Solid waste management project, Aruwakkalu.

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The land filling works of the solid waste management project, Aruwakkalu had been scheduled to be commenced on 01 January 2018 and completed by 30 June 2019, but that duration was extended in 05 instances and a sum of Rs. 13,646 million had been spent thereon. It was observed that the overall progress of this project remained 79 per cent as at 31 December 2020.

Not replied.

The targets should be achieved within the specified duration as planned.

Procurement of 34 container wagons under this project had been canceled due to expiration of agreement period. Although 94 container wagons were scheduled to be received by the end of the year 2020, instructions had been given that the supply be delayed as a place for storing the containers had not been designated. Four sets of train engines had been imported as of 31 December 2019 by incurring a sum of Rs.8,271,224, but the engines could not be made use of for the intended purpose even by 31 December 2020 due to delay in constructing the waste management center. A sum of Rs. 16,186 million had been paid by 31 December 2020 for the project.

### 3.3 Projects without Progress Despite the Release of Funds

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>(a) The Town development projects in nine provinces.</p> <p>According to the progress reports of the Ministry for the year 2020, a minimal performance was observed with the following 02 development sub-projects.</p> <p>(i) A sum of Rs. 2.64 million had been spent as at 31 December 2020 on the constructions of building pertaining to the <i>Sondagiri Thapovana Pirivena</i> in Medamahanuwara, Dunuvila which had been planned to be commenced on 01 July 2019 and completed by 31 December 2020 at an estimated value of Rs.5.74 million, and the physical progress remained 45 per cent.</p> <p>(ii) The construction works of the new central market in Katubedda had been scheduled to be commenced on 15 July 2019 and completed by 30 September 2020, but the physical progress thereof was only 29 per cent although 100 per cent of the total provision thereon amounting to Rs. 166.27 million had been spent.</p>	<p>Due to poor performance of the contractor, the contract had to be terminated midway. Procurement process is in progress to select a contractor anew.</p> <p>Could not be completed on time due to Covid-19 pandemic and rains. It has been scheduled to complete the project by 31 December 2021.</p>	<p>Action should be taken to complete the projects expeditiously.</p>

- (b) Green Arcade middle income housing project.

A sum of Rs. 16 million had been provisioned for the year 2020 on this housing project which had been scheduled to be commenced on 01 October 2017 and completed by 09 August 2020 at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4,117.09 million. A sum of Rs. 15.5 million equivalent to 97 per cent of the said provision had been spent as at 31 December 2020 achieving a physical progress of only 58 per cent.

The contract had been awarded subject to the condition that the contractor would complete the project by spending 100 per cent of the funds and settle the funds within a period of 06 months after completion of the project.

- Do.

### 3.4 Foreign Aid Projects

----- Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Accounting Officer -----	Recommendation -----
As transparency was not ensured contrary to Guidelines of the Government and the World Bank when selecting a contractor for constructing the waste exchange centers, railway tracks, and waste collector of the solid waste management project in Aruwakkalu, the review group of the World Bank requested to do the procurements afresh. As the procurements were not done afresh citing that the project should be completed expeditiously, the World Bank assistance of US \$ 700,000 was deprived of. As such, the project had to be implemented under local funds of Rs. 19,127 million, and as of 31 December 2020, the Government incurred a sum of Rs. 16,186 million on this project.	Not replied.	Funds should be invested through the execution of Procurement procedure ensuring maximum benefits for the public thus securing the Government resources.

3.5 Uneconomic Transactions

<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audit Observation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment of the Accounting Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>
<p>(a) An agreement had been entered into with 02 private institutions at a value of Rs. 148,680,879 in the year 2019 in order to conduct an awareness program for the general public relating to social and economic functions of the projects and institutions under purview of the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development. However, instead of making the public aware, funds had been spent under the theme “<i>Pannaraya</i>” to display the pictures of professionals from different walks of life and presenting advertisements on TV in that connection. As such, the public had not reaped benefits through the funds spent on that programme. It was observed that a sum of Rs. 53,899,098 remained payable to the respective institutions as at 31 December 2020 in favor of those advertisements. The said expenditure on advertisements is observed to have been uneconomic.</p>	<p>With the new Government coming into power, an investigation is being conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department.</p>	<p>Action should be taken to utilize public funds economically.</p>
<p>(b) As for the project to control floods in Greater Colombo, the relevant institutions had not taken substantial measures on the activities such as, acquisition of essential lands for the expansion of Diyawanna Oya, assessment of compensation for the lands acquired, and expediting the payment of compensation. Hence, a foreign company that had owned a land so acquired had filed a case against the Government of Sri Lanka at the International Center for Settlement of Investment</p>	<p>Not replied.</p>	<p>Compensation to be paid for the acquired lands should be assessed by securing public resources thereby minimizing the delay in paying compensation.</p>

Disputes in regard to the delay in paying compensation. By the end of the year 2020, a sum of Rs. 342,979,860 had been incurred uneconomically by the Ministry in respect of obtaining assistance of foreign legal consultants for the case so filed, and the officers of the Attorney General's Department who had proceeded abroad for the case. However, it is observed that that the case has not yet reached a conclusion.

### 3.6 Management of Assets

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Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Accounting Officer -----	Recommendation -----
Action had been taken to assign 09 vehicles of the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development to other institutions in the wake of new Ministries being incorporated whereas 02 vehicles had been obtained from other institutions. The release of vehicles had not been done in accordance with instructions given in Paragraph 08 of Part II of the Financial Regulations amended through Public Finance Circular, No. 01/2020 dated 28 August 2020.	Action will be taken in due course on those vehicles in accordance with instructions given in the amended Financial Regulations.	Vesting of public properties should be done in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

### 3.7 Transactions of Contentious Nature

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The following matters were observed.

Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Accounting Officer -----	Recommendation -----
In consequence of abandoning the Light Rail Transit Project, the foreign consultancy firm had informed that a total of US \$ 31.36 million be paid to them including the losses of 23.65 million incurred by the end of the year under review. In order to hold	Not replied.	The Committee, being responsible for securing the Government resources and public properties, should give

discussions to decrease that amount, a Committee comprising 11 members had been appointed in terms of Cabinet Decision, No. 403/ 21/0221/306/015 dated 23 February 2021. However, that Committee had not presented their recommendations to the Cabinet even by the end of July 2021. Owing to such delays, it was observed that an interest too would have to be paid in addition to the amount payable in terms of General Condition No. 6.6 of the consultancy service agreement. As the loan agreement was no more effective, it was observed that payment of that amount remained contentious.

recommendations promptly.

### 3.8 Procurements

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
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<p>A local institution had been selected by the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet for procuring 34 container wagons to the solid waste management project, Aruwakkalu. However, after the Board of Appeal and the National Procurement Committee had taken into consideration the appeal presented by a bidder whose bid had been turned down due to technical deficiencies, recommendations had been given that the tender be awarded to the Indian company. However, due to reasons such as, giving priority to the local institutions, a financial gain of Rs. 37,430,634 would be reaped by the Government had the local institution been selected due to fluctuations in exchange rates, and the Indian company had once been turned down during evaluation due to technical deficiencies in the bid, it had been informed that the said bidder had been rejected following the Cabinet Memorandum, No. 2019/NC/05 dated 10 July 2019 presented by the Minister for obtaining approval. Nevertheless, it had been stated that, by respecting the recommendation given by the Board of Appeal and the National Procurement</p>	<p>Not replied.</p>	<p>Evaluation and procurement process should be done with transparency in terms of the relevant regulations thus ensuring efficiency and securing resources of the Government.</p>



Committee, approval of the Cabinet had been sought in order to award the procurement of supplying wagons to the said Indian company; the order had been aggregated to that Company to a sum of Rs.US \$ 2,373,200 on 05 August 2019. According to the bid documents, the manufacturer should have presented the conceptual drawings to the Department of Railways for approval prior to manufacturing the wagons. Due to inconsistencies in the conceptual drawings presented by the said Company on several occasions, approval of the Department of Railways had not been given, thus the date agreed to supply the wagons after being manufactured had expired. Hence, action had been taken to terminate the agreement entered into with that company.

3.9 Other Observations

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Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Accounting Officer -----	Recommendation -----
<p>Megapolis planning project in the Western Region had been commenced in May 2015 and completed in September 2017 incurring a sum of Rs.330,226,769. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs. 38,351,301 had been spent as salaries and allowances of the project staff and operating expenses from the year 2018 up to 30 September 2020. The same project had been continued as a new project under the name of Western Provincial planning project, and action had been taken to hand over this project to the Urban Development Authority after being completed on 30 September 2020.</p>	<p>This project had been implemented in accordance with the Cabinet approval. Once the project works had been completed, a minor staff had assisted to implement the identified projects. This project too had been completed and handed over to the Urban Development Authority.</p>	<p>Once the intended works are completed, action should be taken to close the project offices.</p>

4. Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

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Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
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<p>Having brought special attention on the management of urban and other waste-the main sustainable development target of the Greater Colombo solid waste management project, a sum of Rs.16,186.34 million had been spent as at 31 December 2020 in order to minimize the adverse environmental impact caused by the urban individuals. Nevertheless, the project could not reach that target even by the year 2020 owing to poor performance of the project.</p>	<p>Not replied.</p>	<p>The targets should be achieved within the specified duration as planned thereby securing the properties of the public.</p>