

Head 271 – District Secretariat of Trincomalee

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the District Secretariat of Trincomalee –Head 271 for the year ended 31 December 2023 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 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 these financial statements presented to the Accounting Officer of the District Secretariat of Trincomalee in terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 on 31 May 2023. The Annual Detailed Management Audit Report of the District Secretariat was issued to the Accounting Officer on 30 May 2023 in terms of Section 11(2) of the National Audit Act. This report of the Auditor General in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with Section 10 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 is presenting to Parliament.

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 District Secretariat of Trincomalee as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

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

The Accounting Officer are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for the determination of the internal control that 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 District Secretariat 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 District Secretariat 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.

1.4 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 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 skepticism 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 District Secretariat'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 Requirements

I express the following matters in terms of Section 6 (1) (d) and Section 38 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 on the financial statements of the preceding year had been implemented.

1.6 Comments on the Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

(a) Capital Expenditure

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
The total capital expenditure in the Statement of Financial Performance (ACA-F) for the year ending 31st December 2023 was Rs.62,795,088. The amount had not been shown under the cash flow generated from investing activities in the cash flow statement during the year under review and it had been shown under expenses incurred on behalf of other expenditure heads in operating activities.	The difference observed in the audit was the amount of Rs.62,795,087 which was a capital expenditure incurred in the year 2023. However, it was erroneously included in the expenditure incurred on behalf of other expenditure heads in the 2023 financial statement. Please note that such mistakes will not happen from now on.	Cash flow generated from investing activities should be included in the cash flow statement.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(i) The sum of the opening balances of 04 non-financial asset codes was Rs.3,930,408,810 as per Treasury Print	The opening balance of non-current assets as stated in SA 80 may not be	The source documents used for accounting

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| <p>(SA 80) and Rs.5,515,201,207 as per Accumulated Non-Financial Asset Account Report (SA-82). Accordingly, there was a difference of Rs.1,584,792,397 in the opening balances between the above two statements.</p> | <p>correct due to non-financial assets acquired in 2023 not being properly added to CIGAS. Please note that such mistakes will not happen from now on.</p> | <p>purposes should be updated accordingly.</p> |
| <p>(ii) As per Treasury Print No. SA 80 in relation to Head 271, although the total value of acquisition (transfer and purchase) of non-financial assets during the year under review was Rs.1,587,751,879, purchases of non-financial assets as per Statement of Accumulated Non-Financial Assets Account (SA-82) was Rs.3,976,792. Accordingly, there was a difference of Rs.1,583,775,087 between that two statements.</p> | <p>Such a change has taken place due to the fact that some Divisional Secretariats have not updated the CIGAS system as required during the year. I kindly inform you that the mistake will not be made from now on.</p> | <p>The source documents used for accounting purposes should be updated accordingly.</p> |
| <p>(iii) In relation to Head No. 271, the total value of disposals of non-financial assets during the year under review was Rs.987,770 as per Treasury Print No. SA 80, but as per Accumulated Non-Financial Assets Account Report (SA-82) the value was Rs.1,400,467. Accordingly, there was a difference of Rs. 412,697 between the two statements.</p> | <p>The CIGAS subject officer is new to the subject and the disposal value of the non-financial assets has been wrongly shown in the Accumulated Non-Financial Assets account. I kindly inform you that the mistake will not be made from now on.</p> | <p>Training of new officers and proper supervision of accounting work should be done.</p> |
| <p>(iv) Purchases of non-financial assets amounting to Rs.1,587,751,879 as per Treasury Print No. SA 80 had not been shown under cash flows generated from investing activities in the cash flow statement.</p> | <p>Opening balance of non-current assets as stated in SA 80, non-financial assets acquired in 2023 had not been properly added to CIGAS.</p> | <p>Source documents should be updated accordingly.</p> |

(c) **Imprest Balance**

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(i) According to the Statement of Imprest Adjustment (ACA-07), the expenditure incurred by the District Secretariat on behalf of other institutions was Rs.2,071,574,243, but as per the Cash Flow Statement (ACA-C), that balance was Rs.2,134,369,330. Accordingly, there was a difference of Rs.62,795,087 between the above two statements.	The amount of Rs.62,795,087 which was the difference observed in the audit was a capital expenditure incurred in the year 2023. However, in the 2023 financial statement, it was erroneously included in the expenditure incurred on behalf of other expenditure heads. Please note that such mistakes will not happen from now on.	Accuracy of balances between documents should be maintained.
(ii) Although the expenditure incurred by other Ministries/Departments on behalf of District Secretariat was Rs.2,071,569,017, as per Cash Flow Statement (ACA-C) it was shown as Rs.2,134,369,330. Accordingly, there was a difference of Rs. 62,800,313 according to the cash flow statement when compared with other ministries/departmental expenditure schedules prepared by the District Secretariat.	The unsettled outstanding amount is Rs.5,225 in the amended summary of Mutur Divisional Secretariat, which was not included in the control summary of the 2022 financial statement. Please note that the difference has been resolved.	Correct information should be presented through the statements of accounts.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Expenditure Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) According to the Public Administration Circular No. 18/2020 and the Public Administration Circular dated 16 October 2020, it is not possible to pay travel expenses and composite allowances for participating in the Sinhala and Tamil language courses to be taken by the officers in relation to the implementation of the	An inquiry has been made regarding the relevant payments.	The State Administrative Circulars should be followed.

official language policy. But 33 officers of the Morawewa and Kinnia Divisional Secretariats had been paid travel expenses and composite allowances totaling Rs.514,483 during the year under review.

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| (b) | <p>A cheque worth Rs.46,175 was issued in the name of the Assistant Divisional Secretary on 30 November 2023 for the construction of a public detention hall at the Morawewa Divisional Secretariat. Even on 26 March 2024, the cheque was held and the construction work of this detention center had not been completed even then. For a minor construction work, for 21 man-days at the rate of Rs.2,200 per day, a total cost of Rs.46,175 was allocated as labour hire through a cheque, but the cheque was issued in the name of the Assistant Divisional Secretary without being issued in the name of the contractor or the laborer.</p> | <p>The construction work of this detention center has been delayed due to rain. The cheque has been withheld because the work was not completed before the settlement of accounts in the year 2023. Deficiency in calculation of man days has been rectified before the payment by intervention of technical officer.</p> | <p>Public funds should be used with proper management and supervision.</p> |
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2.2 Excess Payment

	Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a)	<p>According to the work report for 11 works prepared by the Technical Officer of the Verugal Divisional Secretariat and recommended by the Deputy Director of Procurement, the value of the completed works was Rs.2,575,900 , but Rs.5,541,835 had been paid to the contractor.</p>	<p>In making the payments for the Rural Road Development Project - 2021, I am kindly informed that the payments have been made after certifying the work reports for 11 works prepared by the Technical Officer of the Verugal Divisional Secretariat and recommended by the Deputy Planning Director.</p>	<p>Overpayments should be recovered.</p>

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| (b) | 2.5 million was estimated for 12 BOQ items in Phase I of the construction of the new office building of the Morawewa Divisional Secretariat, but the amount paid for six BOQ items exceeded the BSR rate of the District Secretariat published in May 2023. Accordingly that, an overpayment of Rs.178,171 had been made. Public funds should be used for payment with proper planning and management. | An overpayment has occurred. | Overpayments should be recovered. |
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2.3 Utilization of Provisions made available by other Ministries and Departments

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation	
(a)	The District Secretariat had given an allocation of Rs.6,196,500 to the Verugal Divisional Secretariat for payment activities from January to September 2023 to provide nutritional bag allowance for pregnant mothers, but an allocation of Rs.5,292,000 had been retained without utilization.	Due to severe difficulty in finding suppliers, provisions have to be held unused.	Activities should be planned in such a way that the provisions are utilized for pregnant mothers.
(b)	According to the letter of the District Secretary No. GAT/PLa.Goat/DO.02/01/01 dated 02 June 2023, goats with good health should be selected according to the specifications of the goats to be purchased in the goat rearing project of the reviewed year. But on 23 September 2023, 44 goats totaling Rs.947,118 distributed to 16 beneficiaries were transported from the supplier's area to the Tambalagamuwa Divisional Secretariat without obtaining the Certificate of Health for goats under the Animal Protection Act No. 29 of 1958.	According to the specifications of the goats to be purchased, it was mentioned that goats with good health condition should be selected and it is informed that getting the health certificate for the goats has been delayed and transportation arrangements have been made as per the advice of the veterinarian doctor.	Arrangements should be made to obtain the necessary quality assurance at the right time.

- (c) According to paragraph 2.3.2 of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy Circular No. DFD/2023-1 dated February 09, 2023 regarding the purchase of government rice in the 2022/2023 season, it had been stated that the amount needed to purchase the small and medium rice mill owners should be paid to the owners of the rice mills in order to turn the stock of paddy into rice so that it can be distributed within the months of March and April 2023. However, during the audit inspection on 12th of October 2023. 427,440 Kg amount of Rs. 42,744,000 were found in a store located in the Padavisripura Divisional Secretariat.
- I would like to kindly inform you that although the stock of rice on hand is planned to be converted into rice so that it can be distributed within the months of March and April 2023, due to the problem of rice storage due to the heavy rains, the stock of rice has been in the mill warehouse for a long time.
- Activities should be planned so that government plans can be implemented in a proper manner.

2.4 Non-compliance to Laws, Rules and Regulations

Instances of non-compliance with the provisions of laws, rules and regulations observed during the sample audits are shown below.

Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations	Observation		Comments of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
	Value Rs.	Non-compliance		
(a) Section 2 (iv) of Public Administration Circular No. 09/2009 dated 16 April 2009	4,581,676	Although it is essential to verify the payment of overtime and holidays by fingerprint machines, the officers of the Divisional Secretariat Morawewa Padawi Sripura, Gomarankadawala, and Seruwila did not do so and received overtime and holiday payments during the year under review.	Due to the failure of the fingerprint machines in the district secretariat and divisional secretariat, the attendance register has been certified by a relevant staff officer and overtime allowances and holiday payments have been paid.	Actions should be taken as per the circular provisions.

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| (b) | Public Administration Circular No. 09/2009 dated 16 April 2009 | Although it is mandatory for all government officers to verify their arrival and departure with a fingerprint machine, the Divisional Secretary, Assistant Divisional Secretary, Accountant of the Seruwila Divisional Secretariat throughout the year 2023 and the officers of the Gomarankadawala Divisional Secretariat from January to November 2023 had not been act accordingly. | The guidelines will be followed henceforth. | Actions should be taken as per the circular provisions. |
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3. Operational Review

3.1 Planning

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) According to the Ministry of Home Affairs' Accounting Circular No. 02/2018 and circular dated January 29, 2018, the services provided by the Divisional Secretariat to the public should be prioritized and optimal targets should be determined in relation to 5 main services and a report on those targets should be submitted to the District Secretariat. According to paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of that circular, the District Secretariat should submit a report summarizing the optimal goals of all the Divisional Secretariats with copies to the Auditor General to the Ministry of Home Affairs before 15 January every year. But the Divisional Secretariat and District Secretariat had not submitted the reports related to the year 2023.	The District Secretariat has omitted to submit the report prepared summarizing the optimal goals of all Divisional Secretariats to the Auditor General. I would like to inform you that such delays will be avoided in the future.	Actions should be taken as per the circular provisions.

- (b) According to the information contained in the Trincomalee District Resettlement Plan prepared on 30 June 2016, In relation to Gomarankadala and Padavi Sripura divisional secretariat, the number of families displaced due to war is 505 and the need for housing after resettlement is 994, 651 houses have been built by the government and non-governmental organizations and 124 houses have been built by the owners themselves, so the number of houses required for further construction was 219. Due to the fact that 283 houses were built through the housing projects implemented by the government in the years 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020, 64 houses had been built beyond the housing requirement by the year 2020. Even in the year 2021, the approval for 89 houses identified as displaced people exceeded the housing requirement included in the resettlement plan, and despite the construction of 153 houses, in the year 2023, under the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 23 houses had been given to Gomarankadawala and Padavi Sri Pura Divisional Secretariat Divisions.
- The people who have left the division make various requests for resettlement. The sub-family details of those families are not certain. Accordingly, since there is a possibility of exceeding the information mentioned in the plan, in the year 2021, suitable beneficiaries were selected and prioritized to cover all the Grama Niladhari domains. Accordingly, in the year 2023, a list of beneficiaries consisting of 08 low-income beneficiaries and 05 resettled beneficiaries was approved and sent to us by the Ministry for the implementation of the housing project.
- The Trincomalee District Resettlement Plan of the Eastern Provincial Chief Secretary and the Trincomalee District Secretary should be updated and the correct information verified.

3.2 Non- performance of Functions

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
It was reported that the 07 houses worth one million rupees had been physically completed according to the progress report of the 'Permanent House Construction Project for War Displaced People - 2021' had submitted to the District Secretariat by the Verugal Divisional Secretariat on 07 September 2023. But during the audit on 10	The parts to be completed with government funds under the 'Project to build permanent houses for people displaced by war-2021' have been completed. Non-release of funds till the completion of the work to the owners of houses which are not physically completed has led to such withholding. As some	Project progress report should be submitted based on factual information.

November 2023, a sum totaling Rs.425,000 had been deposited in the Samurdhi Bank account of the respective beneficiaries without performing the tasks.

of the beneficiaries have gone abroad, the money of the respective beneficiaries has been deposited in the Samurdhi Bank account.

3.3 Non-achievement of expected Output Level

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) According to paragraph 4.4 of the letter No. SMRHC/RD/04/01 of the Verugal Divisional Secretariat in the year 2021 for the permanent housing construction project for the people displaced by the war, a total amount of 8.96 million rupees was deposited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in four phases in the year 2021 to build 15 houses worth Rs.600,000 each. But in the audit conducted on 10 November 2023, the total Rs.1.227 million had been deposited in Samurdhi Bank accounts of 15 beneficiaries.	Comments had not been submitted.	Efforts should be made to achieve the expected output level of the projects.
(b) The housing project expected to be completed in the year 2021 in Morawewa, Padavi Sri Pura, Gomarankadawala, Seruvila, Kantale divisional secretariats had not been completed on time, and as of 31 December 2023, the work of 83 houses of Rs.01 million and 74 houses of Rs.600,000 could not be completed completely.	The project could not be completed due to delay in receipt of funds. Payments are made once the physical progress of the construction is ensured. The amount is held in the bank until certain constructions are completed.	Work in the houses should be completed.
(c) Although according to reports showing the progress related to the construction of houses in the year 2021, 30 beneficiaries of the Rs.600,000 housing program and 32 beneficiaries of the Rupees one million program of the Seruwila Divisional Secretariat have	Seruvila - The allocation was received in the last quarter of 2023, hence the time taken to complete the project was insufficient. Kanthale - There was not enough time to complete the houses and they will be	Financial progress and physical progress should be matched according to the circular.

completed the construction of houses, the physical progress of the houses did not agree with the reports submitted to the audit regarding the progress of completion of work on the houses of 44 beneficiaries of this housing program due to which the total value of the financial assistance of Rs.2,308,000 withheld in the Samurdhi Bank account as on 31 December 2023.

completed according to the funds received.

- (d) The Morawewa Regional Secretariat had sent Rs.2,909,250 and Rs.2,149,225 as the total value of the final installments to the Morawewa Samurdhi Bank on four occasions in the year 2022 in relation to the 30 houses of Rs.600,000 and the 31 houses of Rupees one million of the 2021 housing project. According to the progress of these houses, the physical work of 16 houses of Rs.600,000 and 21 houses of one million rupees was incomplete and the balance of 22 beneficiaries of the one million rupees housing program was Rs.3,365,000 and Rs.1,293,000 for 14 beneficiaries of the housing program of Rs.600,000 had been detained for almost two years.
- According to the construction progress of the houses of the housing project in the year 2021, payments have been made to the houses whose physical work has been completed. Some money retained in Samurdhi Bank till completion certain minor deficiencies. There has been a delay in the release of funds even though the construction has been completed in cases such as some beneficiaries going abroad.
- Actions should be taken to complete the works soon in unfinished houses soon.
- (e) According to Section 4.3.5 of Circular No. MOUD&H/RD/04/01 dated April 27, 2023 dated 27 April 2023 of Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the 2023 housing project must be completed before 30 November 2023, but Morawewa, Padavi Sri Pura, Gomarankadawala, Seruvila, Kantale Divisional Secretariats had not done so and as of 31 December 2023, the work of 41 houses of Rupees one million and 33 houses of Rs.600,000 had not been completed.
- Although the 2023 housing project should be completed before 30 November 2023, I would like to inform you that there has been difficulty in completing the project due to the delay in receiving the allocation and the remaining time to complete the project after receiving the allocation.
- Arrangements should be made to complete the work as per circular arrangements.

3.4 Projects abandoned without completing

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
For the construction of 69 roads under the Rural Roads and Infrastructure Project 2021 (RRDP), a total of Rs.99 million had been allocated to the Verugal and Muthur Divisional Secretariats, and a total of Rs.21.98 million had been paid to contractors for construction and this project had been left unimplemented.	I am kindly informed that the construction of 69 roads under the Rural Roads and Infrastructure Project has been delayed due to the lack of work done by the registered village council contractors in Verugal and Mootoor Divisional Secretariats within two months of receiving the allocation.	The allocations of the projects should be utilized optimally.

3.5 Procurements

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Although according to 5.4.11 of the Procurement Guidelines, the value added tax related to a certain contract work should be paid to the relevant contractor only after receiving the VAT Invoice, but without receiving the VAT invoice from the Inland Revenue Department, the District Secretariat had paid the VAT amounting to Rs.284,846 to the contractor for the construction of the new bank building of Tambalagamuwa Samurdhi Bank.	I kindly inform you that there has been an omission	The guidelines of the Procurement Guide should be followed.
(b) The total cost estimate (TCE) for the construction of the new building of the Morawewa Divisional Secretariat was Rs.11 million and planned to be built according to the direct contract system in three phases as Rs. 2.5 million, Rs. 5 million and Rs. 3.5 million, but the packaging of this contract was irregular and contrary to the provisions of the	Funds had to be found piecemeal as it was not possible to make adequate provision for the construction of the extension of the Morawewa Divisional Secretariat building. Hence the extension of the building has been done in phases.	The guidelines of the Procurement Guide should be followed.

Procurement Guidelines Reference No. 4.4. Thus the contract was divided into phases and implemented due to the procurement limit for direct contracts was Rs.05 million.

3.6 Assets Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Although 07 offices including 02 Divisional Secretary's quarters belong to Seruvila Divisional Secretariat, it was observed that only 02 quarters are occupied and the 02 residential quarters are also in a state of repair, so optimum utilization of the existing assets is not available. Accordingly, the old Divisional Secretary Nilanivasa, the Somapura tourist bungalow and all the 05 public quarters that have been over 42 years old were in a condition that needed to be repaired.	Seruvila - Allocations have been requested from time to time, and allocations have been received for the repair work of Quarter No. 02 only.	Assets should be utilized optimally.
(b) Houses provided in the years 2016, 2017 and 2019 for the residents of 233A Kivlakadawala Grama Niladhari Domain belonging to Gomarankadawala Divisional Secretariat Division including the 07 beneficiary families who did not live in the houses, 04 beneficiary families who did not stay in the houses, rarely come and go during the afternoon and 02 beneficiary families who left the houses, so the houses that were built by the government were not actually owned by the people in need of housing.	Since there were 04 housing beneficiary families and 02 housing beneficiary families who had left their residence, the houses that had been built by the government had not actually been owned by the people in need of housing.	Only needy beneficiaries should be identified and arranged to provide houses.

3.7 Management Weaknesses

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The Seruwila Divisional Secretariat has 02 scheduled offices for the Divisional Secretary, one of which was built in the year 2018 and is currently being maintained by Samurdhi Office. The other quarters are currently in a dilapidated condition and the said quarters are in repaired and usable condition and the Divisional Secretary was not residing in the said quarters.	As the Samurdhi building has collapsed, the Samurdhi office is being run in the Divisional Secretary's Quarters. Therefore, the Divisional Secretary is not residing at the official residence. Requested permission to report for duty from home and covered all required duties from home.	Arrangements should be made to utilize the scheduled houses in the maximum manner.
(b) Seruwila Divisional Secretariat does not own the land and buildings of the other 05 non-scheduled offices and the Somapura tourist bungalow belonging to the Seruwila Divisional Secretariat and the own of those lands and buildings had not been transferred to the Divisional Secretariat as of February 08, 2024, which was the date of audit.	Although the National Housing Development Authority has informed us that the ownership of the houses has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the necessary documents have not been received by this office. Necessary measures will be taken for that.	Arrangements should be made to take over the ownership of the land clearly.
(c) An officer who was working in the III grade of Management Assistant Service in Trincomalee Nagara and Kadawath Divisional Secretariat submitted fake examination results and received Rs.3,305,197 as salary and allowances from 15 September 2015 to 31 December 2022. In addition, the balance due on 31 December 2022 of the disaster loans was Rs.205,650 and Maternity leave with full pay from 14 October 2015 to 25 February 2016 and out-of-island leave for 10 days from 27 August 2019 to 5 September 2019 had been taken.	<p>i. Her service was suspended after the examination results were found as fake.</p> <p>ii. The amount of Rs.205,650.00 due to the government as disaster loan is recovered from her guarantor in installments.</p> <p>iii. The reasons for the delay have been asked from the officers who dealt with personal files during the period 2015-2021.</p>	Immediate action should be taken regarding the officers who are responsible for recruitment officers without checking their qualifications and to compensate the loss caused to the government due to this.

- iv. The officer has been inform to pay the amount of Rs.3,305,197 paid as salary and allowances to the government before 21-05-2024.
- (d) Under the 2019/2020 Maha season paddy purchasing program, the amount due from 4 rice mill owners of Kanthale Divisional Secretariat and Lanka Sathosa Institute for 77,146 kilograms of rice with a total value of Rs.6,490,269 has not been recovered by the District Secretariat despite a period of more than 3 years. .
- As a legal step, a complaint has been filed with the Kanthale Police. The Kantale Police have informed that there are no signs of criminal wrongdoing in this matter and have requested further instructions from the Attorney General.
- Arrangements should be made to collect the relevant money promptly.

4. Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Officers were not sufficiently aware of the Sustainable Development Goals and no evaluation was carried out in the year under review as did not identification of the Sustainable Development Goals.	A request to prepare a sustainable development plan has been forwarded to the Director General of the Sustainable Development Council.	Sustainable development goals should be identified and implemented.

5. Human Resource Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) There were totaling of 115 vacancies as 15vacancies for senior level officers, 24 vacancies for tertiary level officers, 39 vacancies for secondary level officers and 37 vacancies for primary level officers, at the end of the year under review.	The cadre is updated monthly along with the vacancy report to fill up the vacancies and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Management Services. Some positions are filled as per our requests.	Urgent action should be taken to fill the vacancies of essential posts.

- (b) During the year under review, the transfer policy was not implemented in respect of 455 officers whose service period exceeded 05 years in the District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariats. Many officers have been transferred under the annual transfer scheme. Certain requests of officers requiring special attention have been considered as least detrimental to office work. Actions should be taken to according to the State Administration Circular No. 18/2001 dated 22 August 2001.