

Head -101 – Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs - 2024

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

Head 101 - The audit of the financial statements of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2024 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information 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 containing my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs was issued to the Chief Accounting Officer on 04 July 2025 in terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. The Annual Detailed Management Audit Report relevant to the Ministry was issued to the Chief Accounting Officer on 22 July 2025 in terms of Section 11(2) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. This report will be tabled in Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka 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 give a fair view in all materials of the financial statements of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year ended 31 December 2024 in accordance to the financial position, financial performance and cash flows, the basis of preparation of the financial statements mentioned in Note 1 of the financial statements.

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 Responsibility section. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 Emphasis of Matter – Basis of the Preparation of Financial Statements

It is drawn attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which described the basis of the preparation of these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared for the needs of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, the Treasury and Parliament in accordance with Public Financial Regulations 150 and 151 and Public Accounts Guideline No. 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024 as amended on 21 February 2025. Therefore, these financial statements may not be suitable for other purposes. My report is intended only for the use of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, the Treasury and the Parliament of Sri Lanka. My opinion on this matter is not modified.

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

The Chief Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a fair view in accordance with Public Financial Regulations 150 and 151 and the Public Accounts Guideline No. 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024 as amended on 21 February 2025 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 Ministry 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 Chief Accounting Officer shall 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.

1.5 Auditor's Responsibility 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 judgement 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 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 Chief Accounting Officer regarding, among other matters significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

1.6 Comments on the Financial Statements

1.6.1 Non-compliance with the Provisions of the Financial Statements Circulars

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Although the net assets value to the Treasury in the statement of financial position as at 31 December of the year under review should be Rs.(21,339,070), it was understated by Rs.1,638,151 and stated as Rs.(22,977,221) and although there was an imprest balance of Rs. 1,638,152 in the statement of financial position, the cash balance was not mentioned in relation to that value.	It was informed that the reason for the difference was an outstanding imprest balance of Rs.1,638,151 and since it is a current liability, it has been pointed out as a current liability in the relevant statement of financial position.	The net assets value should be calculated for the Treasury in accordance with paragraph 7.9 of the Public Accounts Guideline No. 06/2024 dated 16 December 2024.

1.6.2 Accounting Deficiencies

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
The value of 06 vehicles owned by the Ministry as at 31 December 2024 had not been assessed and accounted and 03 vehicles worth Rs.12,300,000, which were not in the possession of the Ministry on that date, had been included in the financial statements.	It was informed that one of the six relevant vehicles already been assessed and action will be taken to account it in the year 2025 and one of the vehicles in the cultural centers should be repaired and	Action should be taken to account the vehicles in the possession of the Ministry and action should be taken to take over ownership of vehicles that have not

assessed and two other vehicles should be disposed and explanations regarding the other two vehicles related to the National Heritage Division will be submitted in later. been taken over the ownership.

(b) Non-maintenance of Registers and Books

It was observed during sample audits that the Ministry had not maintained certain registers listed below and that certain registers had not been maintained properly and up-to-date.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(i) Security Register		
The security register containing the details of officers and employees required to post security in accordance with Financial Regulation 891(1) had not been updated.	It was informed that action will be taken to update the security register.	A security register of officers required to post security should be updated and maintained as including the information specified in Financial Regulation 891(1).
(ii) Leave Register		
A leave register had not been maintained in accordance with 1.7 of chapter XII of the Establishment Code.	It was informed that action will be taken to maintain an updated leave register.	A leave register should be maintained to record approved leaves in accordance with General format 190 in accordance with section 1.7 of chapter XII of the Establishment Code.

2. Report on Other Legal Requirements

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

- (a) The financial statements are consistent with the preceding year.
- (b) The following recommendation made by me on the financial statements of the preceding year had not been implemented.

Paragraph reference to the report of the previous year	Recommendation that was not implemented	Paragraph reference to this report
1.6.1. (b)	The value of 02 vehicles registered in the name of the Ministry had not been included under non-financial assets in the financial statement.	1.6.2 (a)

3. Financial Review

3.1 Expenditure Management

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Out of the total provisions of Rs. 8,151,912 transferred under Financial Regulation 66 for a recurrent expenditure code and a capital expenditure code, Rs.5, 352,809 was saved and that saving had been ranged from 65 percent to 83 percent as a percentage of transfers under Financial Regulation 66.	It was informed that although the transfer of provisions to expenditure code 101-1-2-0-1202-2 due to the continuously increase in fuel prices last year, provisions were saved due to fuel prices not increasing as expected and expenditure management and as the transfers of provisions under F.R. 66 for the capital expenditure subject 101-02-05-0-2102 had been occurred in the end of the year 2024, as it was observed that is not sufficient time to carry out the relevant tasks to the District Secretaries, it was informed that due to not taking action to release the	Action should be taken to transfer the provisions with proper study.

provisions, provisions were saved.

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| <p>(b) Out of the estimated provision of Rs. 1,100,000 for a recurrent expenditure code, Rs.600,000 had been transferred to another expenditure code through F.R. 66 and the remaining allocated amount had also not been spent for the relevant purpose.</p> | <p>According to the letter of the Secretary of the Ministry regarding the 2024 Recurrent Expenditure Control, it was informed that the amount blocked from the provision under this expenditure code was Rs.500,000 and there was a saving in the provision due to that the expenditure under expenditure code 101-02-05-0-1304 was not incurred as expected. Accordingly, it was informed that the remaining provision was transferred to the expenditure code 101-02-05-0-1101 through F.R. 66 for the payment of travel expenses of officers of regional cultural centers and travel expenses related to board of survey activities carried out by the officers of the Divisional Secretariat.</p> | <p>The allocated funds should be utilized for the allocated purposes during the year.</p> |
| <p>(c) Out of the total provision of Rs. 41,541,657 transferred through supplementary estimates for two capital expenditure codes, Rs. 26,771,010 had been saved and that saving had ranged from 55 percent to 69 percent as a percentage of net provision.</p> | <p>Provisions of Rs.33,690,000 have been allocated through supplementary estimates for capital expenditure code 101-02-05-37-2104 and the total provisions is Rs.38,690,000 and the remaining net provision is Rs.21,339,053 and due to that procurement activities had to be carried out several times for certain purchases during the construction of the W.D. Amaradeva Asapuwa and some suppliers had taken a long time to deliver the relevant materials to the construction site,</p> | <p>The allocated provisions should be utilized for relevant programmes.</p> |

provisions could not be used within the stipulated time period.

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| <p>(d) Provisions of Rs. 5,037,326 were also obtained through supplementary estimates for a capital expenditure code for which there was not provision in the initial estimate and the entire provision had been saved at the end of the year.</p> | <p>It was informed that 101-2-5-49-2509 is an expenditure code allocated for the Central Cultural Fund and although this expenditure code was established for the provision of Rs. 5,037,326 received as a foreign grant for the conservation work of Rangiri-Dambulu temple, action had not been taken to obtain imprests by the National Heritage Division due to non-submission of bills for the said project by the Central Cultural Fund.</p> | <p>Action should be taken by the Ministry to give provisions to the Central Cultural Fund and utilize the relevant foreign grants for the purposes of the grants given.</p> |
| <p>(e) Out of the total net provision of Rs. 167,060,000 allocated for forty (40) recurrent expenditure codes, Rs. 95,495,612 was saved and that saving had been ranged from 30 percent to 97 percent as a percentage of the net provision.</p> | <p>It was informed that the provisions were saved due to the non-submission of expected expenses, control of expenses, management and economical use of funds and only incurring essential expenses that should be prioritized.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to prepare estimates with proper study with paying attention to proper financial management and economical use.</p> |
| <p>(f) Out of the total net provision of Rs. 160,700,000 allocated for eight (08) capital expenditure codes, Rs. 137,405,940 was saved and that saving had been ranged from 30 percent to 99 percent as a percentage of the net provision.</p> | <p>It was informed that the savings were made due to reasons such as delay in technical evaluation work for installing solar panels on the roof of the Dahampaya building, allocations have been allocated to all departments and compliance with expenditure control circulars as allocation requests have not been submitted by the relevant departments, non-completion of targeted procurement activities, although provisions were transferred to the Department of</p> | <p>The allocated provisions should be utilized for relevant programmes.</p> |

Building through F.R. 208, expenditures had not been reported, although the programmes were implemented as planned, expenditure control on the lack of residential programmes and technical issues.

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| <p>(g) The entire provision of the total allocation of Rs. 7,140,000 for ten (10) recurrent expenditure codes and the total allocation of Rs. 1,002,200 for three (03) capital expenditure codes had been saved.</p> | <p>It was mentioned the reasons such as controlling expenses in accordance with National Budget Circular No. 01/2024, ensuring that needs do not arise as expected, as need to act in accordance as instructed by the Presidential Secretariat regarding foreign travel expenses, money under this expenditure code have to be used in a prudent and economical manner, the provisions related to this expenditure code have been allocated for the maintenance and operational expenses of the Amaradeva Aesthetic and Research Center (Amaradeva Asapuwa) project, but those expenses have not been incurred.</p> | <p>The allocated provisions should be utilized for relevant programmes.</p> |
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3.2 Incurring into the Liabilities and Obligations

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The total of five liabilities amounting to Rs. 84,560 were included in the liability register of the CIGAS programme of the Ministry by two other departments (Expenditure Head Nos. 258 and 265) for two capital expenditure codes belonging to the Ministry.	This amount has not included as a liability under the expenditure head of the Ministry and two other expenditure heads have recorded liabilities for these expenditure codes. It was informed that answers will be given later after inquiry from the relevant expenditure heads.	Accurate information should be included into the financial statements.

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| <p>(b) Although all liabilities should be recorded in the liability register as soon as they are incurred in accordance with Financial Regulation 211(i) and F.R. 447, the payment of Rs. 3,541,342 was paid in the first 03 months of the year 2025 in respect of 26 payment vouchers of the Ministry in the year 2024, but action had not been taken to include the obligations and liabilities in the liability register.</p> | <p>It was informed that since the obligations and liabilities should be uploaded to the new CIGAS web application on or before 31.01.2025, only the liability balances on that date were included in the liability register, that all relevant obligations and liabilities will be recorded correctly in the liability register during the preparation of final accounts for the year 2025.</p> | <p>All obligations and liabilities should be included into the liability register.</p> |
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3.3 Certification to be done by the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer

According to the provisions of section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Chief Accounting Officer/ Accounting Officer should have made certification regarding the following matters, but that had not been done accordingly.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>(a) The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting officer shall ensure that an effective internal control system is developed and maintained for the financial control of the ministry and although that the effectiveness of that system should be reviewed from time to time and the necessary changes should be made accordingly to make the system effective and those reviews should be done in writing and a copy of that should be submitted to the Auditor General, statements that such reviews were conducted were not submitted to the audit.</p>	<p>It was informed that the relevant officers had been informed to take the necessary action to submit the relevant review in writing when submitting the financial statements for the year 2025.</p>	<p>Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions of section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.</p>

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| <p>(b) Although the Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer shall ensure that there is an effective system to properly implement the internal audit function, that requirement had not been fulfilled according to the observations mentioned in paragraph 5.2 of the report.</p> | <p>It was informed that agree with the observation and that the Audit and Management Committee meetings could not be held during the fourth quarter of 2024 due to the vacancy of the position of Chief Internal Auditor and the periodic reshuffle of institutions under the Ministry, that action will be taken to held and Audit and Management Committee meetings in January 2025 and that necessary action will be taken to maintain that situation continuously.</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions of section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.</p> |
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3.4 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

Instances of non-compliance with the provisions in laws, rules and regulations observed during the sample audit tests are analyzed and mentioned below.

Reference to Laws, Rules and Regulations	Observation Amount Rs.	Non-compliance	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Public Administration Circulars				
Circular No. 30/2016 dated 29 December 2016				
• Section 3.1	-	A fuel check should be done again after a period of 12 months or after 25,000 km of driving or after a major engine repair, whichever comes first after each fuel check, but action had	It was informed that fuel checks have been carried out for all vehicles for the year 2024 (except for the 05 vehicles allocated to	Action should be taken in accordance with the Public Administration Circular.

		not been taken regarding 44 vehicles owned by the Ministry until the audited date.	external parties) and that fuel checks are planned for the year 2025.	
• Section 3.3	-	Although the transport service record should be completed monthly as stated in Annexure 01 of the circular to identify any changes in fuel usage, action had not been taken accordingly regarding 26 vehicles related to the Ministry.	It had been informed that monthly transport service records are completed and maintained for the 26 vehicles currently belonging to the Buddhasasana Division.	Action should be taken in accordance with the Public Administration Circular.

3.5 Deposit Balances

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Action had not been taken in accordance with the provisions of Financial Regulation 571(2) and (3) regarding the total of expired deposits amounting to Rs. 56,304,096 in relation to 03 general deposit accounts of the Ministry.	It was informed that it had not been released the retention deposits related to the construction of the SAARC cultural center because that a final decision has not yet been taken regarding the construction of SAARC cultural center, an expired deposit balance in the general deposit account 6000-0-0-16-0-73 (Retention deposit for contracts) and the relevant retention deposits because the construction work of Amaradeva Asapuwa, a retention money in relation to construction of the new building at the Vidyalankara Pirivena, which is the work has not been completed.	Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Financial Regulation 571(2) and (3) regarding expired deposits.

3.6 Operating Bank Accounts

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
<p>Although the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs was introduced the imprest account number 209 and only the official bank account number 7040101 of the Bank of Ceylon as per the Budget Circular No. 09/2019 dated 31 December 2019, in addition to that, the Ministry had periodically transferred money from the main account to two bank account bearing account numbers 7040782 and 7040115. Due to the failure to submit for audit about the approvals obtained in terms of 02.1 of the Treasury Operations Circular No. 03/2015 dated 23 October 2015 of the Director General of Treasury Operations for the opening of official bank accounts for sub-offices, the validity of the transferring money for the Ministry to other bank accounts from the official bank account could not be certified by the audit.</p>	<p>The official bank account number 7040782 belonging to the Cultural Affairs Division of the ministry was opened on 10 march 2015 and it is maintained as the official bank account of the Cultural Affairs Division and approvals have been obtained from the Treasury Operations Department in accordance with the Treasury Operations Circular No. 03/2015 issued on 23 October 2015 in accordance with the specified formats and it was observed that financial management activities had been carried out efficiently and immediately by transferring money from the Bank of Ceylon account number 7040101 belonging to the Ministry's head office to the official bank account number 7040782 of the Bank of Ceylon belonging to the Cultural Affairs Division.</p>	<p>Although it was stated that the relevant approvals had been taken, that is incorrect and Treasury approval should be obtained for opening new bank accounts in accordance with paragraph 02.1 of Treasury Operations Circular No. 03/2015 dated 23 October 2015.</p>

4. Operational Review

4.1 Planning

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The annual action plan and the procurement plan should be prepared by the all ministries, which were approved by the expenditure head under the Appropriation Act as per Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020 dated 28 August 2020. Accordingly, although one annual action plan and one procurement plan should be prepared for the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs under the expenditure head 101, 03 separate annual procurement plans and three action plans had been prepared for the Buddhasasana Division, the Cultural Division and Heritage Division separately and approved by the Secretary of the Ministry.	It was informed that the action plan of the entire Ministry for the year 2024 has been prepared in accordance with the instructions in paragraph 03 of the Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020 dated 28 August 2020, it is attached as 03 separate parts only for easy to binding and that a combined procurement plan is being prepared from the year 2026.	Action should be taken to prepare and approve one operational plan and one procurement plan for the Ministry.
(b) The Ministry had not prepared a master procurement plan with listing the expected procurement activities for a period of at least 03 years as per paragraph 4.2 of the Government Procurement Guidelines.	It was informed that the relevant officers were informed to prepare a procurement plan for a period of at least 03 years in accordance with the procurement guidelines in the year 2026.	Action should be taken in accordance with the Government Procurement Guidelines.
(c) According to the revised action plan, although a provision of Rs. 3.3 million had been allocated for conducting two art cultural camps under expenditure code 101-2-5-44-1409, these two cultural camps were held at an expenditure of Rs. 0.64 million. Accordingly, it was observed that estimates for these programmes had not been prepared with proper study.	It was stated that the answers will be submitted after they were received from the National Heritage Division.	Estimates should be prepared with proper study.

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| <p>(d) The sufficient programmes to achieve the objectives such as to identify and preserve traditional intangible and ancestral heritage, to take the necessary creative steps to give that heritage to future generations, strengthening the roots of heritage, giving pride to its practitioners and awareness about intangible heritage around the world, which are the objectives of establishing the Gramodaya Folk Arts Centre, had not been included into the action plan.</p> | <p>It was stated that the answers will be submitted after they were received from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to include programmes into the action plan with proper study as that the objectives can be achieved.</p> |
| <p>(e) The Kandyan Heritage Foundation was established to achieve the objectives such as identifying, planning, coordination and implementing projects related to the preservation and development of the Kandyan heritage, developing rural tanks and irrigation systems that have a major contribution to the traditional Kandyan rural economy, development of traditional old industries, expansion of market opportunities and preservation and promotion of those industries, but sufficient programmes for that purpose had not been included in the action plan.</p> | <p>It was stated that the answers will be submitted after they were received from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to include programmes into the action plan with proper study.</p> |

4.2 Non-performance of Duties

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Although provisions of Rs. 1.7 million and Rs. 0.3 million respectively have been allocated for carrying out social animation programmes in tribal villages and maintaining the Research and Conservation	It was stated that the answers will be submitted after receiving them from the National Heritage Division.	The relevant tasks should be carried out within the year according to the action plan.

Committee for national heritage under the expenditure code 101-2-5-44-1409 as per the revised action plan, those tasks had not been carried out during the year.

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| <p>(b) The Gramodaya Folk Arts Centre had planned to commence a new course on sculpture design in the year 2024 with a provision of Rs. 250,000, but those activities had not been carried out.</p> | <p>It was stated that the answers will be submitted after receiving them from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>The relevant tasks should be carried out within the year according to the action plan.</p> |
| <p>(c) Although an annual provision of Rs. 38.69 million has been allocated for the construction of Amaradeva Asapuwa under the expenditure code 101-2-5-037-2104, only the tasks of Rs. 17.351 million were completed during the year. Furthermore, although the construction work of this monastery has not been completed and operations have not yet commenced, provisions of Rs. 5 million had been allocated under the expenditure code 101-2-5-037-1509 to carry out its essential tasks. However, those provisions remained unused as the work had not commenced.</p> | <p>It was informed that due to the reasons such as several procurement procedures had to be implemented for certain purchases, it had been taken long time to hand over the certain materials to the construction site during the construction of the W.D. Amaradeva Asapuwa, the usage of provisions is limited in the stipulated time and the provisions allocated for the maintenance and operational expenses of the Amradeva Aesthetics and Research Center project were not spent because the W.D. Amaradeva Asapuwa was not established as an institution.</p> | <p>The allocated provisions should be utilized for relevant programmes.</p> |
| <p>(d) Rs. 14,200,000 has been allocated for the year under review for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Dahampaya building, which is maintained the ministry, and Rs. 196,916 had been spent as Rs. 8,500 was spent on the relevant applications for the Ceylon Electricity Board and Rs. 178,416 was spent on publishing newspaper advertisements and the work of which the allocations were made had not been completed.</p> | <p>It was informed that due to technical recommendations that the roof should be repaired before installing solar panels on the proposed floor, priority had to be given to repairing the roof (slab) and actions were being carried out accordingly.</p> | <p>Before applying for a provision, it should be done with a study to determine whether there is a suitable environment for it.</p> |

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| <p>(e) Although a capital allocation of Rs. 35,000,000 has been allocated for software development in all departments and institutions under the Ministry, Rs. 1,600,000 had been allocated to the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs to carry out that task. In addition, Rs. 184,797 of the allocated money for this purpose were spent on translating and printing the Mahavagga Pali book of the Tripitaka into English, which is not related to software development, and the allocated amount had not been used for the intended purpose.</p> | <p>Although these provisions were allocated for software development in the Ministry and all departments under it, it was informed that the provisions remained in save due to the lack of requests from the relevant departments for that.</p> | <p>The Ministry should conduct a proper study regarding the institutions under the Ministry and take actions to utilize the allocated provisions for the relevant programmes.</p> |
| <p>(f) Although the Ministry had allocated Rs. 1,075,000 from the annual budget estimate for a programme to provide solar electricity to Buddhist temples, only the work of surveying the land was carried out during the year under review at an expenditure of Rs. 314,352 and the remaining tasks had not been completed.</p> | <p>Since there will be an expenditure of Rs. 742 million to draw electricity from the land identified for this project to the electricity substation, it was informed that actions were being made to pay off the relevant expenses within 10 years from the profit of electricity charges or to find another suitable land through the Sustainable Energy Authority.</p> | <p>A feasibility study should be conducted before provisioning and decisions should be taken on the implementation of a project.</p> |

4.3 Non-achievement of Desired Output level

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Rs. 27.58 million was allocated under expenditure code 101-02-05-31-2509 for the conservation and promotion of national heritage and Rs. 7.746 million from that had been remained in save. The residential drama and performing arts training programmes planned to be implemented under this project had not been conducted	Although the programme related to reading human books was planned to be implemented in December 2024, it was informed that not possible to immediately organize the relevant programme due to the relocation of the Bureau for the promotion	Before requesting provisions, follow-up activities should be carried out to determine whether there is a suitable environment to carry out the relevant work.

and the programmes for people with disabilities, such as the compilation of autobiographical writings, reading of human books and the creation of children's storybooks to promote attitudes of social equality, had not been completed.

of cultural rights of the disabled community from its current locations and basic arrangements have been taken to hold the annual International Book Fair at the Bandaranayake International Conference Hall premises in September 2025. Furthermore, since the supplier for printing the self-written biography had informed that it was not possible to print the biography in Unicode characters, it was informed that since there was no time to select another supplier again, the procurement process was re-conducted in March 2025 and the printing work was handed over to the Government Printing Department. It was informed that after publishing newspaper advertisements, approximately 40 children's literary creativity books were received in relation to the programme to implement and improve egalitarian attitudes among children with disabilities and the adult community under the creation of children's storybooks to promote social equality attitudes and 10 better books have been selected and cash prizes have been awarded to them and that the ideas had been got from the Ministry of Education regarding the publication of these works as educational reference books.

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| <p>(b) A protection plan for intangible heritage had not been prepared under the protection of intangible heritage included in the above tasks. Furthermore, the programme to</p> | <p>It was informed that due to the committee established for the protection of intangible heritage was abolished due to the change</p> | <p>Plans should be prepared with prior study.</p> |
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recognize the trans community as citizens of society, which was planned to be implemented under the social and cultural programmes conducted to empower marginalized communities, had not been implemented.

in the regime during the period when discussion on the relevant tasks, the relevant activities had to be temporarily suspended and actions are being taken to prepare a conservation plan for intangible heritage in future.

Although cultural programmes for the trans community were planned in the year 2024, the programme was not implemented because it raised many ethical and legal issues and could have raised objections from society and the media and instead of that, programmes were implemented to develop attitudes and improve literacy for the community, including children, under the empowerment of marginalized communities and it was also informed that action will be taken to continue those programmes in the year 2025 as well.

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| <p>(c) Provisions of Rs. 12.26 million had been allocated for the purchase of machinery and equipment under expenditure code 101-2-05-2103 and although there were plans to purchase machines and equipment for cultural centers and to purchase fingerprint machines for 218 centers, only Rs. 9.69 million had been spent during the year. Accordingly, although there was a provision of Rs. 2.55 million remaining in save, fingerprint machines were purchased for only 50 cultural centers during the year under review.</p> | <p>It was informed that only 50 fingerprint machines were purchased under the first phase as it will be taken a long time to supply a large quantity at once and the remaining 43 machines were provided and installed in the first quarter of this year and procurement activities are being carried out to purchase the remaining 127 machines during this year.</p> | <p>It should be ensured that provision of money is allocated through proper study.</p> |
| <p>(d) Provisions of Rs. 19 million had been allocated under the expenditure code 101-2-05-09-1409-099 and although it was</p> | <p>Provisions have been made for various festivals and cultural promotional programmes in the</p> | <p>Written evidences was not observed that requests for provisions</p> |

planned to implement various cultural promotional programmes in addition to implementing cultural elements for various festivals, only Rs. 15.312 million had been spent out of that. Accordingly, due to the failure to hold promotional programmes as planned, provisions of Rs. 3.688 million remained in save.

early months of 2024 and it was informed that the non-disbursement of money for many programmes due to the elections held at the end of the year had affected for the saving of those funds.

were made. It is necessary to ensure that provisions of money are allocated with proper study.

4.4 Assets Management

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) The disposal of a motor car of the Ministry, which had been recommended for disposal in the year 2022, had not been completed until the end of the year under review.	It was informed that the necessary actions will be taken to complete the disposal activities as soon as possible and report to the audit.	Assets disposal proceedings should be completed immediately.
(b) According to the Assets Management Circular No. 03/2018 dated 10 October 2018, although action should be taken to take over the registration right of the vehicle in cases where the organization currently using the vehicle is unable to take over the ownership, action had not been taken accordingly in the current year regarding two vehicles belonging to the Ministry with a total value of Rs. 49,000,000.	It was informed that action will be taken in accordance with Assets Management Circular 03/2018 to take over the registration rights of the two vehicles to the Ministry.	Action should be taken in accordance with the Assets Management Circular.
(c) The land and building where the Rajarata Charika Niwasaya is located, which is under the control of the ministry, had not been taken over by the Ministry until the date of this report.	It was informed that the relevant work to take over the relevant land and building to the Ministry is in the final stage.	Action should be taken to take over the land and building for the Ministry.

- (d) The Vidyalkara International Buddhist Conference Hall, which was started in the year 2005 and completed in the year 2019 at an expenditure of Rs. 1249.93 million, had an area of 9847 meters and it was handed over to the Vidyalkara trust in the year 2023.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the project was scheduled to be completed in the year 2017 and it was completed in the year 2019, action had not been taken to recover delay charges from the contracting institute of Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau for the delay of more than two years. 	<p>It was informed that further investigations are being carried out and that answers will be submitted in future.</p>	<p>Immediate action should be taken to collect delay charges from the relevant institute.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although installations such as air conditioners, CCTV camera systems, loudspeakers etc. were not working, action had not been taken to initiate them. 	<p>Although the relevant installments need to be serviced from time to time, the allocation of Rs. 200 million had been allocated in the year 2017, but it was informed that has not even been possible to pay the bills to CECB institute due to lack of imprests and although a Cabinet memorandum was submitted to obtain provisions to complete phase VI of this project, approval has not been received.</p>	<p>Action should be taken to restore malfunctioning air conditioners, CCTV camera systems, loudspeakers etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although buildings should be constructed according to properly approved plans, minimizing potential disasters and constructing buildings of high quality, action had not been taken to get the approval for basic plans for this building, which has a large area of 9847 square meters. 	<p>It was informed that the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Drainage should have obtained the compliance report for it at the beginning of the construction of this project, but it had not been obtained and the Ministry had obtained the compliance report for building on 15.03.2023 after it was revealed in the year 2021.</p>	<p>Plans should be approved and construction should be carried out accordingly.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the building was handed over with mentioning each item, the relevant documents had not been completed and written confirmation of acceptance had not been obtained from the Vidyalankara trust. | <p>It was informed that a handing over list has been sent to the Venerable Thero through a letter and the Vidyalankara trust was established and a trusted deed was signed on 15.10.2020 and handed over to the Vidyalankara trust in accordance with the cabinet decision regarding the conversion of the Vidyalankara International Buddhist Conference hall to the situation of service supplies.</p> | <p>Written confirmation should be obtained that the relevant trust has formally taken over the building.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the building was handed over to the Vidyalankara trust without completing the existing deficiencies, it had not been confirmed whether the Vidyalankara trust had the capacity to complete the deficiencies and the building remained in idle until the date of this report. | <p>It was informed that the new members appointed to the Vidyalankara trust have prepared and submitted a business plan to turn this project into an income-generating project and the Vidyalankara trust has mentioned the methods of generating income for the first two years and the third phase will be implemented as that suits the purpose of the building at the end of those two years and although the services of an engineer are required to supervise the project and certify the bills on behalf of the Ministry, as there is currently engineer is not in the Ministry, the necessary actions are being taken to obtain the services of an engineer from another institution.</p> | <p>The deficiencies should be corrected and the building should be used immediately.</p> |

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| <p>(e) Although the Secretary to the Ministry had informed by letter No. MBRCA/01/07/52-01 dated 29 August 2023 that the building belonging to the Ministry established in the Mahanayaka Charikarama premises will be handed over to the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs, it had not been formally handed over to the department.</p> | <p>It was informed that this building had been handed over to the Department of Buddhist affairs through a letter and there was a delay of checking and handing over the inventories due to the vacancy of Technical Officer. It was also informed that since the necessary actions are being taken to fill the vacancy of Technical Officer, the necessary actions have been planned to formally hand over after recruitment.</p> | <p>The building should be formally handed over to the Department.</p> |
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4.5 Security of Public Officers

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Action had not been taken to collect securities from 20 officers of the ministry who were recruited to post security in accordance with section 12 of the Public Officers' security ordinance in accordance with Financial Regulation 880 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.	Although all staff officers have been included in the current bail collection checking, it was informed that notes had been made to include drivers in future as it was observed that drivers were not included.	Action should be taken as per the Financial Regulations.

4.6 Management inefficiencies

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
(a) Only Rs. 8,011 has been recovered during the year under review from the loss of Rs. 320,450 incurred by the government in relation to the theft of A4 size photocopies at the Ministry in the year 2023 and action had not been taken to recover the remaining amount of Rs. 312,439.	It is also stated that the collection as premiums from officer employed in the Ministry is currently being done and although the Department of Motor Traffic has been informed to recover the money from the transferred employee, it was informed that since the	Action should be taken to recover the loss from the relevant officers.

amount has not been collect and send yet now, action has been taken to inform again.

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| <p>(b) There were loan balances as a cumulative loan balance of Rs. 263,003 to be charged from three deceased officers, which is between 1-3 years, a cumulative loan balance of Rs. 200,763 to be charged from four retired officers, a cumulative loan balance of Rs. 266,990 to be charged from two officers who have left from the service, a cumulative loan balance of Rs. 354,530 to be charged from two officers who have been suspended and a loan balance of Rs. 128,372 to be charged from a retired officer who is a retired officer beyond 10 years, a loan balance of Rs. 96,130 to be charged from an officer who had left from the service and a loan balance of Rs. 110,650 to be charged from an officer who had been suspended, without acting in accordance with the provisions of Guideline No. 01 of procedure to be followed in recovering loans or advances made through Advance “B” Account under F.R 113(6)(b) of section 3.1 of Part I of Chapter xxiv of the Establishment Code and Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020.</p> | <p>It was informed that necessary action will be taken to recover the money.</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions of subsections 4.2.5, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 of Chapter xxiv of the Establishment Code and the provisions of Guideline No. 01 relating to Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28 August 2020 regarding the recovery of loans.</p> |
| <p>(c) Action had not been taken in accordance with the provisions of Public Finance Circular No. 1/2024 dated 29 May 2024 regarding a total loan balance of Rs. 172,285 as a loan balance of Rs. 24,080 to be charged from a retired officer and a cumulative loan balance of Rs. 148,205 to be charged from 6 suspended officers.</p> | <p>It was informed that necessary actions are being taken to solve the issued that have arisen in the process of pension processing and action will be taken to adjust the pensions and recover the outstanding loans from the pensions of retired officers. It was also informed that letters have been sent to the suspended officers with requesting them to pay the outstanding loans and action is being taken regarding</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the provisions of Public Finance Circular No. 1/2024 dated 29 May 2024.</p> |

the possibility of recovery from the guarantor. It was informed that a letter has been sent with informing them to pay the outstanding amount for the festival advance payment without guarantors and since it is an outstanding loan balance that has been outstanding for a period of 07 years, it is proposed to cut off the loan amount under the amendment to the provisions of Finance Circular 01/2020.

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| <p>(d) Although a staff of 11 officers was approved for the Ape Gama Folk Heritage Exhibition Center as per the Cabinet decision No. AMP/21/0191/305/007 dated 16 February 2021, only four staff members had been recruited as at the audited date of 14 October 2025.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to recruit approved staff.</p> |
| <p>(e) Although the Cabinet decision No. AMP/21/1883/305/007-1 dated 02 November 2021 emphasized the need to utilize existing assets as productively and reorganize Ape Gama premises as that attract the public, the necessary actions had not been taken until the audited date and the Ape Gama folk heritage exhibition center had been operating solely based on the revenue sources that existed in the initial phase.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the Cabinet decision.</p> |
| <p>(f) It is planned to operate with considering the potential of the lands on which the Ape Gama folk heritage exhibition center has been established as an investment project or a public-private partnership project with financial independence and although a mechanism should be developed to cover expenses from the currently generated income in accordance with the Cabinet</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National Heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the Cabinet decision.</p> |

decision No. AMP/24/1687/620/034 dated 10 September 2024, adequate steps had not been taken until the audited date of 30 September 2025 and the Ape Gama folk heritage center had been maintained by crediting the income earned to the government's revenue and covering the expenses through obtaining annual budget allocations under the expenditure code allocated for the Folk Arts Centre.

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| <p>(g) Out of the 45 stalls constructed within the Ape Gama premises as at 31 December 2024, 18 stalls had been provided to vendors without a contract at a monthly rent of Rs. 1,000 and since the security deposit was not obtained for damages incurred while using those stalls, there was not a mechanism to recover any damage to government property. Also, a suitable mechanism had not been developed to properly collect the relevant monthly rent and the fact that Rs. 1,000 had been set as the monthly rent for these stalls, which are located on land with high commercial value, was also problematic.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to assess the monthly rent of a stall and prepare a suitable method to collect the rent.</p> |
| <p>(h) Although the fees charged by public institutions for services provided to the public should be reviewed and revised every three years subject to a maximum of 15 percent in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28 August 2020, such amendments had not been made regarding Ape Gama.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken in accordance with the Public Finance Circular.</p> |
| <p>(i) Although 9 stalls from Nos. 20 to 28 had been given to the Crafts Council, contract had not been signed for that and information was not submitted to the audit regarding the provision of relevant stalls.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National heritage Division.</p> | <p>A proper system should be prepared for providing stalls.</p> |

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| <p>(j) Although the ancient village section within Ape Gama premises should be prepared as that it can be opened to visitors and maintained, adequate actions had not been taken to carry out these activities in a formal manner and as a result, the income that could have been earned from ticket sales had been lost from several years.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National heritage Division.</p> | <p>Action should be taken to increase government revenue by re-opening the ancient village section within Ape Gama premises to visitors.</p> |
| <p>(k) Although it is the responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer to make arrangements to ensure that a system is provided for adequate control over the collection of revenue in accordance with section 127 (a), adequate internal controls were not established to ensure that all money collected daily by Ape Gama premises were submitted to the Ministry.</p> | <p>It was informed that it will be submitted after receiving an answer from the National heritage Division.</p> | <p>Adequate internal control should be established.</p> |
| <p>(l) If it is expected that there will be a delay of more than 07 days in submitting a complete report when occurred a loss or damage, an initial report should be submitted immediately in accordance with Financial regulation 104(3) and a complete report should be submitted within three months from the date of the loss according to the Financial Regulation 104(4). However, an initial report had not been submitted regarding an accident that occurred to a motor vehicle on 01 January 2024 and the complete report was submitted more than a month after the accident on 07 February 2024. Also, the complete report regarding the accident on 15 August 2023 for a one motor vehicle was submitted more than 08 months to the accident occurred and a complete report regarding the accident on 13 December 2023 for another motor vehicle was submitted more than 04 months to the accident occurred.</p> | <p>It was informed that final reports will be submitted within three months from the date of the loss or damage in future in accordance with Financial Regulation 104 (04).</p> | <p>Action should be taken as per the Financial Regulations.</p> |

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| <p>(m) Although the Ministry had provided provisions of Rs.20,130,247 and Rs. 24,926,805 respectively for the development of sacred areas in the years of 2023 and 2024, guidelines or related circulars had not been issued regarding the selection of projects for the development of sacred areas and recommendations had been given for the development of 14 sacred areas under three criterias in the year 2023 and 10 sacred areas under five other criterias in the year 2024 for the development of sacred areas. Also, there were cases where certain projects could not be completed and money was returned at the end of the year due to reasons such as the Divisional Secretaries and District Secretaries were not aware of the relevant programme, the Chief Incumbent Theros were not aware, there were deficiencies in the preparation of estimates and releasing provisions with delay.</p> | <p>Money has not been released in the years prior to 2023 and 2024 was not based on any criteria in the releasing of sacred areas allocations and it was informed that expenditure control circulars, Cabinet decisions were followed for releasing provisions only for essential priority tasks in the year 2023 and steps have been taken to release the funds, allowing time to complete the projects while avoiding delays.</p> | <p>Criteria for selecting projects for the development of sacred areas should be approved, action should be taken to inform the relevant parties about the relevant development programme and to release the provisions without delay.</p> |
| <p>(n) Rs. 101.15 million was spent in the year 2023 for the development of rural Buddhist temples and although the selection of temples was made by a committee appointed with the approval of the Secretary of the Ministry, a guideline or a related internal circular had not been approved regarding the appointment of that committee and the selection of development projects and although the Ministry had informed that the temples would be selected based on criteria that had been considered for several years, it had been decided on many occasions to consider special requests submitted by the Minister of the subject and the Secretary and out of 148 rural temples for which provisions were provided in the year 2023, provisions were allocated for only 65 temple development projects based on the recommendations of the selection</p> | <p>This programme has been implementing in many years and it is difficult to submit a file that has been approved based on the criteria and it was informed actions are being taken to obtain approval of the Secretary for the relevant criterias again in the year 2024 and in cases where it is not possible to provide provisions for requests made by the Minister of the Subject according to the criterias of the temple selection committee, it was informed that action was taken to obtain information about an another development proposal that complied with the criteria of the relevant temple and arrangements had been taken to issue provisions for that</p> | <p>The relevant programme should be implemented according to the approved formal criterias.</p> |

committee and provisions for the development of the remaining temples were made with the approval of the Secretary of the Ministry.

Although the selection committee had decided to allocate provisions for development activities, there were temples that had not yet submitted project proposals for development at the time of the decision and the Ministry had contacted the temples and informed them to submit relevant applications and estimates for the projects. Accordingly, it was observed that criterias were not used in transparently when selecting temples in need of assistance.

- (o) The Ministry is maintained in three section as Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs, Cultural and National Heritage and the performance report of the Ministry was also submitted under the three relevant sections. Accordingly, the functions, vision, mission and objectives of the Ministry, as stated in the gazette notification No. 2412/08 dated 25 November 2024 relating to the establishment of the Ministry, have not been generally recognized and separate tasks , vision, mission and objectives were identified for the relevant sectors.

The performance report will be prepared as a single report by the Ministry in future and it was informed that it will be noted to prepare the report with a single vision, mission and objectives.

There should be a unified vision, mission and objectives for the Ministry.

5. Good Governance

5.1 Rendering Services to the Public

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Although reports are required to be submitted to the Sri Lanka Right to Information Commission twice a year or once a year in terms of sections 08 and 10 of the Right to Information Act No. 12 of	It was informed that it is noted to relevant reports have been submitted to the Sri Lanka Right to Information Commission in accordance with sections 08 and	Action should be taken as per the Act.

2016, relevant reports for the year 2024 had not been submitted. 10 of the Right to Information Act No. 12 of 2016.

5.2 Audit and Management Committee

Audit Observation	Comments of the Chief Accounting Officer	Recommendation
Although the provisions of section 41 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Department of Management Audit Circular No. DMA/01/2019 dated 12 January 2019 require that Audit and Management Committee meetings to be held at least quarterly for each entity, the Ministry had arranged to hold only two meetings during the year under review.	It was informed that agree with the observations and the position of Chief Internal Auditor remained vacant during the fourth quarter of the year 2024 and due to the periodic reshuffle of institutions under the Ministry, it was not possible to hold meetings of the Audit and Management Committees and arrangements were taken to hold an Audit and Management Committee meeting in January 2025 and that necessary steps will be taken to maintain that situation.	Action should be taken as per the Act.