Head-331 Department of Samurdhi Development.

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Department of Samurdhi Development for the year ended 31 December 2021 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021 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 containing my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Department of Samurdhi Development was issued to the Accounting officer on 8 June 2022. In terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. The Annual Detailed Management Audit Report of the Department was issued to the Accounting Officer on 20 June 2022 in terms of Section 11(2) of the Audit Act. This report is presented to Parliament in terms of Section 10 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 to be read in conjunction with Article 154 (6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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 Department of Samurdhi Development as at 31 December 2021 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 Department 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, Accounting Officer shall ensure that an effective internal control system for the financial control exists in the Department 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

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My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue 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 Department '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) 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 Financial Statements**

Accounting Deficiencies 1.6.1

(a) Statement of Financial Performance

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

Comments of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

Even though the balance of Treasury imprest in the statement of financial performance was Rs.78,714,274,286 and it Rs.78,714,283,000 according to the trial balance of Treasury

A difference of Rs. 8,714 between the imprest issuing of the Treasury imprest account and the Department imprest receiving account. And that was entered as an excess of the Treasury imprest in the Department imprest account.

Financial Statements should be prepared identifying all adjustments accurately in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of State Accounts.

(ii) The amount of Rs. 116,134,657 remitted to the Treasury on 31 December 2021 had been shown as the balance of imprest as at 31 December. the statement financial performance

Noted to correct.

Financial Statements should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of State Accounts.

Statement of Financial (b) **Position**

(i) The value of official quarters Rs.3,751,000 and the value of circuit bungalows Rs.17,900,000 had included in the Format of ACA-6 in the Financial Statements of the preceding year ended 31 December had been added to the balance of non-

Action to be taken to correct entries of accounts and report by monthly summaries of the month of May 2022

Classifications of assets should be done accurately and reporting should be done accurately.

official quarters office buildings valued at Rs.319,764,000 when bringing forward as at 01 January 2021

(ii) Assets value of Rs.70,000 of Television and a value of Rs.930,000 of Cameras and accessories purchased during the year under review had not been included in the statement of non-financial assets.

These assets which had purchased under the expenditure object 2509 it has not been done including as an opening balances by mistake.

Classification of assets should be done accurately and should be recorded accurately

(c) <u>Unreconciled Control</u> <u>Accounts</u>

The sum of five deposit accounts was Rs.2,841,119,289 as per Financial Statements and it was Rs.2, 818,748,994 according to the schedules there was a difference of Rs.22,370,295.

This difference had been indicated due to the presenting of schedules only the Head office and unable to present schedules of District offices for audit.

Should be recorded accurately.

1.6.2 Evidence not made available for audit.

Schedules relating to the funds amounting to 1,098,324 of funds receiving for the reimbursement of expenses of General Deposit No. of 6000-0-0-20-19 were not submitted for audit.

Balances under the deposit category mentioned in the observation has been reported by several District offices and the detailed information of the relevant district at audit had not been available at Head Office.

deposit Relevant schedules should be n the furnished for audit.

Non-maintenance of Registers and Books

It was observed during audit test checks that the Department had not maintained the following registers while certain other registers had not been maintained in the proper and updated manner.

Audit Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation -----Officer

(a) Record of losses and damages had not been updated in terms of Financial Regulation 104 and 110.

Updating the register of losses damages to and be done accurately

Register of losses and damages should be updated in terms of Financial Regulation 104 and 110.

(b) The Register of Government Officers' Securities had not been maintained in terms of Section 612(4) of Government Officers' Security Ordinance.

Maintaining of the Security Register has been started.

Should be required to give security in terms of Financial Regulation 880.

(c) A Register of list of Vehicles had not been maintained in terms of Financial Regulation 1647 (e).

Information of vehicle repairs A register should be updated in relating to the past days. Therefore relevant information will be updated after receiving that information.

and disposals have to be entered terms of Financial Regulation 1647 (e).

2. Financial Review

2.1 Management of Expenditure

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation -----Officer

(a) In accordance with the Section 6 of the appropriation Act No.07 of 2020, Even though it had been mentioned that the supplementary estimate provisions should be fully utilized, when making provisions out of the net total of Rs.57,500,870,000 and the supplementary amount received to 331-2payment of Samurdhi subsidies the year 2021 Rs. 53 billion. Even though estimates had prepared targeting of beneficiaries of the waiting list and It was not implemented due decisions of government policy. It was affected directly to the savings of provision of the same object.

Estimated provision for the Action should be taken to prepare estimates properly.

2-1-1501 on 29 July 2021 for welfare expenditure amounting to object Rs.4,500,870,000 including the initial estimate of Rs.53,000,000,000 an amount of Rs.2,100,777,634 had been saved after incurring of Rs.55,400,092,366

(b) Even though provisions had been obtained following Virement procedure terms of FR 66 and FR 69 read in conjunction with Section 5 (1) and 5(2) of the appropriation Act No. 07 of 2020, there was a saving of Rs.7,824,698 pertaining to 5 instances where the money was not spent by the end of the year and the reasons presented regarding that were also not acceptable during the audit.

Totally agree with the observation and instructions had given to the officials to take actions so that such errors do not occur again under any other circumstances.

Action should be taken to prepare estimates properly and accurately.

(c) Out of the net provision of 29 number of expenditure objects amounting to Rs.5,950,096,700 the expenditure of the year was Rs.4,466,687,414 and sum of Rs.1,483,429,286 had been saved without being utilized.

This provision had been saved due to the reason of closing of offices during the Covid- 19 pandemic situation and instructions given by the Treasury for the controlling of expenses, unable to implement a number of activities which had planned and estimated for the year 2021,

Action should be taken to prepare estimates properly and accurately.

2.2 Entered into Commitment to liabilities

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Accounting Recommendation

(a) The value of Rs. 183,098 to be paid by the department on 9 instances in relation to various supplies and services which had purchased had not been entered in the statement of liabilities. Further, a sum of Rs. 344,507 pertaining to 4

liabilities that were made

for various services had

been understated in the

liabilities.

Vouchers for payment even by the time of preparing and presenting of financial statements in the year 2021 have not been presented. As a result of that, those expenses had not been entered as liabilities. But payments should have done parties which had entered in to the commitments should be entered in to the register of liabilities of the Department.

Should be entered in the commitments as per circulars.

(b) A difference of RS. 320,619 was observed in between the register of liabilities presented by the Department and the liabilities included in the financial statements in relation to two expenditure objects.

This difference indicates due to the non-submission of vouchers for payment even at the time of the preparation and submission of financial statements of year 2021. Should be entered in the commitments as per circulars

(c) All the liabilities related to the financial year should be paid and discharged in the same financial year without being carried forward to the next year in terms Public Finance Circular No. 271/2019 dated 03 December 2019 and the Finance Public Circular No.255/2017 dated 27 April2017 and despite the instructions were given that any liability should not be carried forward with the intention of settling next Due to the special programs that had to be implemented in the social status beyond the control of the department, In the year 2021, it had to come for commitments for the tasks that should have been done.

Should be entered in the commitments as per circulars

year and the Treasury will no longer take steps to settle the liabilities entered in to in contrary to those instructions the liabilities amounting Rs. 182,849,545 had been entered in to exceeding total savings of Rs.99,432,128in expenditure objects.

2.3 **Advance Account**

Audit Observation

The following observations are made

Even though (a) the Minister of Finance to the revise the limits of the advance account had been submitted by the letter of Director General of National **Budget** No.BD/AA/LR/01/2022 of dated 31 December 2021, the approval had not been received even by 08 April 2022.

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Recommendation

It was informed that action had recommendations to the taken to approve the application for revise the limits by the Department of National Budget and after having the approval it will be informed.

Should be take action in terms of the circulars.

(b) The balance of accrued loan from the 147 number of employees who had transferred, vacated of post, deceased and prohibited was Rs. 2,188,931 from than 01 year to over 05 years as at 31 December 2021. In this loan balance there was a over 05 years balance amounting to Rs.657,719 balance and of Rs.648,198 of accrued

Gratuity of deceased officers had Action should be taken to settle not been accounted up to date and therefore it could not be recovered. All officers who vacated of post were been over 10 years of service and securities had not been submitted. Therefore it was an issue of recovering of their loan balances. Due to the disciplinary actions had not finalized, unable to recover loans of the officers who were interdicted.

the loan amount.

loans in between 04 and 05 years, an amount of Rs.407,269 of accrued loan balance in between 03 and 04 years and Rs. 307,780 of loan balance in between 1-3 years.

(c) Action had not been taken to recover the balance of Rs.672,348 of distress and flood loans receivable during the year under review from the number of officers who are being employed.

All the employees who are not Action should be taken to settle paid salaries under the Employee Trust Fund of the Department had issued distress loans under the Advance B Account from the year 2021.

the loans.

(d) An of amount Rs. 66,257,360 of distress loans had been given to 302 employees in the year 2020 under issuance of the Advances public to officers without obtaining instructions from the Treasury regarding the continuation of Employee loan revolving Fund which was given loans to officers during the period of existence of Samurdhi Authority. Even though loans were continuously provided from employee loan revolving fund, in this manner, annual financial statement s had not been prepared and submitted to the audit for 08 years from the year 2014 to year 2020. The payment of loans had been stopped by Revolving Fund by the year 2021 and there was a favorable

balance

of

The financial statements of the Action should be taken to settle employee loan revolving fund are being prepared and action to be taken to submit to the audit immediately.

the loan amount.

Rs. 94,216,546 existed in the current account as per bank statement of March 2022 of Employee Loan Revolving Fund.

When providing credit (e) facilities only for the officers of the department special employee loan provided by the finance and banking sector and the Samurdhi bank special loans provided by the Samurdhi banks amount of Rs. 2,850,836 of credit facilities had been provided in 4 instances for officers who have transferred the in department from other services and action had not been taken to recover those loan amounts in case of when they transferring from the department.

It was informed that providing of Action should be taken in credit facilities to the officers accordance with the circulars. who are not departmental had been stopped by this time and the loan balances of the officers transferred out from the department are recovering properly from the monthly salary of them.

2.4 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

The following observations are made

Reference to Laws,	Value	Non-compliance	Comment of the	Recommendation
Rules and			Accounting Officer	
Regulations				
	Rs.			
(a)Financial		All the functions	When inquired from	Action should be
Regulations of the	-	of the training	the Treasury	taken in terms of
Democratic		centers were	regarding the	Financial
Socialist Republic		carried out by the	maintenance of bank	Regulations and
of Sri Lanka		attached staff	current accounts of, 3	circulars
		without being	Training	
(i) F.R.135 and		delegation of	Centers ,instructions	
381(i)		authorities and	had been given orally	
		bank current	to continue to	
		accounts had been	maintaining of those	
		maintained in 03	accounts and send	

training centers information of without obtaining officers who bearing the approval of the those accounts.

Treasury.

(ii) F.R.189 and 486 2,887,765

Action had not been taken terms of Financial Regulation in respect 22 of number of cheques deposited but not realized within the period of 11 months to 4 years. according to the statement of bank reconciliation the month of December 2021.

Necessary actions are Action should be being taken to taken in terms of accurate in terms of Financial Regulations Regulations

(iii) F.R.396 164,300

Action had not been taken in accordance with the Financial Regulations regarding 12cheques issued but not presented for more than 6 months as at 31 December 2021.

Necessary actions are
being taken to Action should be
accurate in terms of taken in terms of
Financial
Regulations.

Regulations

(iv)F.R.756,757 and 1647 (b)

Action had not been taken to carry out physical verification regarding 146 number of vehicles. (b) Public Finance circular --No.01/2014 dated 17
February 2014.

The organizational structure for approved carder of the department had not been prepared and approved as instructed.

Verification of vehicles in District level had finalized and verification activities of vehicles in Head office are processing.

Action should be taken in terms of Financial Regulations

(c) Public
Administration
circular No.
02/2018 dated
24 January
2018.

A plan of Human Resources Development had not been prepared and staff agreements had not been prepared for the entire staff. Being preparing the organizational structure for suggested carder of the department and forwarded to the department of Management Service the month October 2020.

Action should be taken in terms of F.R. and circulars.

(d) Paragraph 15 of Public Finance circular No. 01/ 2020 dated 18 August 2020. Considering requirement maintaining Divineguma Fund, Social security Trust Fund, and Housing development Lottery Fund. Banking Society Stationary Revolving Fund Employee and Revolving Loan Fund which were established Funds .Action had not been taken to legislate those Funds.

Staff agreements had not been prepared as mentioned in the observation. Action to be taken soon observing regarding this.

Action should be taken in terms of F.R.

(e) Paragraph 13.2, Guideline No.03 of Assets Management circular No. 05/ 2020 dated 02 October 2020.

Even though the procedure of disposal should be done in accordance with the Guideline of disposal or repair of used vehicles which are not in maintaining running. There were 29 numbers of vehicles which had not been done so accordingly.

In accordance with of the Act the department established regarding Funds were being legislated. Sets of law and Regulations needed for those the condition of Funds prepared and forwarded the Department of Legal Drafting.

Action should be taken in terms of. circulars.

Action to be taken to Action should be repair or to dispose taken in terms of. those vehicles in the Circulars. future, considering recommendations of Technical the Evaluation Committee according to the recommendations which are given evaluating estimates regarding effectiveness of that.

2.5 **Operation of Bank Accounts**

The following observations are made.

Observation _____ Officer -----

An amount of Rs. 25, 971,852 of unidentified deposits and Rs.85,131,426 of unrealized deposits had been included in the bank reconciliation statement of the month of December and although a period from 2 months to 4 years had elapsed a balance of Rs.4, 477, 765 had not been realized by the month of February 2022.

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation _____

Balances were identified and Action should be taken to settle. action to be taken to settle immediately.

2.6 Accounts Receivable and Payable

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation -----Officer _____ -----

subsidies paid to Samurdhi beneficiaries, to achieve various objectives by taking a particular contribution and the **Funds** owned by Samurdhi Banks retaining as compulsory savings amounted to Rs. 47,653,794,136 had been obtained for various activities of the Government Treasury at 6 instances on the agreements with the Government Treasury from the year 2004 to year 2021, and that amount of money had not been refund to the respective Samurdhi banks and Funds even by now.

The Funds made from by the Even though the amount of money mentioned the observation requested to reimbursed continually from the treasury, had not been reimbursed up to the date. After reimbursement had done the relevant amount action to be taken to reimburse it to the Micro Finance Section.

Action should be taken to reimbursed relevant money.

2.7 Deposits

The following observations are made.

Observation -----

Comment of the Accounting Recommendation Officer

(a) Without taking action to credit the revenue collected from the Training Centers to the Government Revenue, after incurring expenses from that, action had been taken to retain the balance amount of Rs.2,380,951 in the General Deposit Account.

Provision of money for incurring of administrative expenses of the Training Centers had been retained in the deposit account. though administrative Even from expenses earning training programmes had been retained for the purpose of of maintenance avoiding expenditure is a burden to the government, action had been taken to credit to the government revenue also before this, after retaining for the period of two year

Action should be taken to credit collected revenue to the government revenue.

(b) A balance amount of Rs.231,162,935 had returned out of money which had given to the District Samurdhi offices to grant Covid subsidies in the year 2020/2021 by the Micro Finance Banking Sector had been retained in the General Deposit Account without being settled to that Sector.

Suppling of finance in the year 2020 and 2021 had to be done in several sources for giving covid subsidies, when returning the balance it was not an easy task of classification and accounting. Therefore all the receipts had retained in the General Deposit Account. A detailed report has been pending by that time. The balances to be settled accordingly after receiving those reports.

Action should be taken to settle the balance.

(c) A number of 105 expired cheques which had issued but not presented for payment during the period from May 2019 to June 2021totalled to Rs.1,374,632 had retained in the General Deposit Account without taking action to settle in terms of Financial Regulations 396 (a).

Action are being taken to settle recognizing these balances transferred to deposit account and being recognizing to which parties should be settled these balances.

Action should be taken in terms of Financial Regulations.

(d) An amount of Rs.112,334,568 credited to the official bank account of the Department at 212 instances from 31 December 2020 to 27 October 2021 had been retained in the General Deposit Account without being able to recognize the source of financing.

Providing of finance had done to give Covid subsidies in the year 2020 and 2021 from several sources. An amount of money as per credited to the deposit account when returning the balances remitted to the official bank account by those Samurdhi banks. A detailed report is being prepared by the internal audit. After receiving that report action to be taken to define the Samurdhi banks which had credited those money.

Action to be taken to settle recognizing financial source.

(e) An amount of Rs.452,688 of balance refunded from the money given to the district office of the Hambanthota for various activities, had been retained in the General Deposit Account without being taken action to credit to the government revenue.

Informed to the District office of Hambanthota had of regarding this observation and instruction had been given to look in to the matter and credited to the revenue.

Action should be taken to credited to the government revenue.

(f) A deposit balance of Rs.2,374,500,000 had been remained from the period of 8 years to 10 years in the balance of Rs.2,798,770,935 as at 31 December in the temporarily deposit account which had to pay for the third party.

An amount of Rs.Mn. 3,457.5 been taken from Samurdhi Authority the payment of Samurdhi subsidies by the Department of Samurdhi Commissioner General at that time with the agreement of the Treasury. This balance indicates due to the accounting of the balance should be settled further amount of relevant loan under the category of 6000-0-0-13-123 in the event of the amalgamation of Authority and the Department.

Action should be taken to settle recognizing the source of financial.

3. Operating Review

3.1 Performance

3.1.1. Vision and Mission

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation
Officer -------

Samurdhi programme had been implemented for the purpose of totally eradicate the poverty alleviation based on units of families by using development projects upgrading socially and economically and contribute youths in the country directly to the development activities. The of Samurdhi number beneficiaries were 1,760,865 by the month of April year 2022 Samurdhi subsidies of and Rs. 337,645 million had spent period of 9 years from year 2013-2021. It was observed in audit test checks according to the following facts through the programmes have been implementing for long period of time, recognizing of families achieved standard of living, empowering economically and socially can move forward with self-reliance had not done properly.

(a) Number of 593,169 of Samurdhi beneficiaries have been receiving subsidies between 10 to 27 years by the year 2022. According to the audit test checks of 13 years from 1994 to 2011.

Policy planning decisions had been taken time to time by the governments came to power up to the date from the Samurdhi programme had been through empowering despite of enhancing the power empowering them socially, economically, educationally and spiritually to the subsidies remove from where programme as those decisions had not been implemented

Operating activities should be done regarding the functions and tasks according to the fundamental objectives.

due to the existing Government had changed time to time. Therefore there are a large number of families receiving subsidies for a long time.

(b) There were no proper methodology for follow up the income level of beneficiaries periodically, to remove beneficiaries who reached towards high level of income and entering new beneficiaries the Samurdhi programme started in the year 1994.

On the results received through the survey of recognizing families had done in the year 2017 covering island wide. Even though it was planned to remove income upgraded beneficiary families due to the public protests when it was being implemented on the situation had been arisen. It was decided to hold taking of action base on the results of that survey by the Government.

A proper methodology to follow up of the income level should be made.

3.1.2 Paying of subsidies of Rs. 5000 for victims of people from the Covid – 19 pandemic situations.

The following observations are made.

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation
Officer ------

The following matters observing according to the information submitted by the Account Section relating to the total expenditure of Rs, Million 22,302.85 for the payment of Rs. 5,000 subsidies for 4,542,865 number of beneficiaries in two phases.

(a) **Debts** amounting to Rs. 14 Billion had been obtained keeping 91 fixed deposits valued at Rs. 11,352,242,292 remained at Samurdhi Micro Finance Bank Fund, Samurdhi Housing Development Leasing Fund and Samurdhi Fund in People's Bank and Bank of Ceylon as securities to obtain the necessary funds to pay the above subsidies as per the information obtained from

To reimburse those money requested from the treasury frequently and submitted this requisition in the monthly requisition applications. But the provisions or the imprest had not been provided up to date. .

Action should be taken to recover loans without being a loss to the Funds.

the Accounts Division. A sum of Rs.7,164,971,000 had been Supplementary provided by Estimates for the settlement of debts. Accordingly, the amount of debt to be paid furthermore was Rs. 6,835,029,000 and in this, it had been agreed to calculate the amount of interest charged at the time of settlement of the full amount of debt.

(b)When providing loan a grace period of 6 months had been given and even though it had been extended by 3 months, without making arrangements to repay the loan again extended up to October 2022.

Extension of the payment of the Action should be taken to recover loan had occurred due to the of maintaining necessity legitimacy of the settlement of loans, due to the necessary imprest and allocation had not released to settle that loan within the period given by the treasury.

loans without being loss to the Funds.

3.1.3 Establishment of Suwa Bojun Centers

The following observations are made.

Provision amounted Rs.51, 333,146 had been given to establish 9 number of Suwa Bojun Centers in the year 2021. Out of that amount spending of Rs. 49,154,249 of provision 9 number of Suwa Bojun Centers had been constructed. Suwa Bojun Centers which were

established in the year 2021 had

not been opened even by the

month of March 2022.

Observation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Samurdhi Suwa Bojun Centers which are doing businesses now under a lot of obstacles and the Samurdhi Suwa Bojun Centers are being prepared for starting of business activities had delayed to open due to the gas and fuel crisis currently existing in the country and also local tourism industry was being inactivated.

Recommendation

Planed activities should implemented properly.

(b)Even though an amount of Rs. 33,269,239 had been given to construct Suwa Bojun Centers in the five divisional secretary offices during the period from year 2016 to year 2021. Action had not been taken to finish and open those up to date.

Samurdhi Suwa Bojun Centers which are doing businesses now under a lot of obstacles and the Samurdhi Suwa Bojun Centers are being prepared for starting of business activities had delayed to open due to the gas and fuel crisis currently existing in the country and also local tourism industry was being inactivated.

Planed activities should be implemented properly.

3.1.4. Implementing Client Relationship Management Module (CRM)

The following observations are made.

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation
Officer ------

The following issues are observed that relating to implementing of welfare project to 1.76 million of Samurdhi beneficiaries implemented through the client relationship management module (CRM)

(a) Provision of subsidies had been prepared on the basis of monthly allocation reports which are sent from the District Secretariat offices without having reports through the module from the month of January 2021. According to the audit test checks had been done in two district for two months, there was a difference of 924 number of beneficiaries in between the modules and monthly allocation reports.

Relevant activity could not Client started in the scheduled time line (CRM as planned due to the technical to date issues and other practical issues had arisen while entering CRM data.

Client Relationship Module (CRM) should be maintained up to date.

(b) Updated number of beneficiaries get through CRM are 1,765,819 by the date of audited 16 March 2022. There was a net difference of a 2409 number of beneficiaries between

Relevant officers has been aware to update the revised subsidies through CRM computer programme and technical and other practical issues aroused had been affected in proceeding

Client Relationship Module (CRM) should be maintained up to date.

two reports get through the finance section as at that date. To change the welfare name list, removing, new additions, revise name or value, change in place of living should be daily updated and as such reports of the subsidies which credited to the banks should be given through module in the first date of the duty in every month. It was observed that such updates had not done by the returning excess money in the year 2020 and 2021 amounted to Rs.37,579,986 and Rs.680,738,364 respectively.

accordingly that (in making revision).

(c) Data management regarding Project the of Providing Electricity for All was done through this Module and there were inconsistencies observed in the information provided accordance with the Dash board and Count Reports through the Module. Further, as per the information of Electricity board, it was mentioned that the number of houses given electricity connection as 33,202 and the number of houses obtained as per the information received through the Module 12, 658.

Aware of responsible officers for updating the (CRM) module had been done several times.

Client Relationship Module (CRM) should be maintained up to date.

(d) Information on the projects which are carried out by the Department is done through the CRM Module and the instances of failure to inclusion of the information on the date of initiation, approval, progress, procument and completion of the projects to the Module as per the audit test checks conducted in two Districts were observed.

Aware of updating the information of entrepreneurship before 18 May 2022 by this time. Accordingly it is expected to complete the updating of information.

the Client Relationship Module hip (CRM) should be maintained up me. to date.

e) Even though it had been made aware by the Circulars that the information regarding the provision of Covid- 19 subsidies should be included in the CRM Module, it had not been properly updated.

Awareness has been made to all districts as update information.

Client Relationship Module (CRM) should be maintained up to date.

3. 1. 5 Divineguma Community Based Banks.

Observation Co

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Recommendation

In accordance with the paragraph 26 of Divineguma Act No. 01 of 2013, it had been mentioned as objectives of the Divineguma Community Based Banks that promoting the savings habit of Beneficiaries, improving investment ability and providing facilities to credit the Beneficiaries. And it had been shown in the Reports of the Auditor General in 2018 and 2019 in respect of 135 number of frauds had occurred amounting to Rs.115,723,619 in Samurdhi banks and banking societies during the period of 2014 -2018 and despite of that there was a quantitative increase in financial frauds and irregularities reported annually, the top management did not pay attention in this regard and to take proper measures to them. prevent Due to misappropriation of bank money, the money that was supposed to be used for the needs of the Divineguma beneficiaries could not be used for that purpose. As the records of financial frauds and irregularities committed by the staff attached are taking considerable value, had it questioned during the audit,

As we recognized the main reason for occurring of financial frauds in the Samurdhi banks banking societies relevant officers of this banks are keeping accounts in the method of traditional Therefore all (manual). the Samurdhi banks and banking societies are being transformed computerized system. Through that we hope handling of customer service activities more efficiently and minimizing the financial frauds mistakes had done purposely when keeping accounts in the way of manual

Action should be taken to having a proper internal control system when doing operational activities which regarding tasks and activities have to be done. whether the duties to be performed in order to achieve the objectives expected to be achieved according to the Divineguma Act.

3.2 Uneconomic Transactions

The following facts are observed.

Observation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

(a) An amount of expenses of Rs. 1,127,000 had been paid for the expenditure on equipment of the broadcasting center and control room for Samurdhi FM Internet Radio and Rs. 1,200,000 had been paid training of the officers and the technical support needed.. And the implementation of the programme had been stopped by now. Due to the expiry of the contractual period. Although the fundamental objective of establishment of Samurdhi FM Internet Radio was communicate the goals of Samurdhi business more efficiently and effectively to the people by building communication pattern that supports the development tasks of poverty alleviation and the efforts of low-income population groups and subject it to a wide conversation, it was questionable in audit that whether there was a possibility to get an effective and efficient service from this FM internet radio service for the Samurdhi Beneficiaries and low income people who do not have internet facilities, smart mobile

phones and other minimum

facilities to do in that way.

Within the first year of Samurdhi FM radio started objective of its could be fulfilled It was expected to be reach to this objective by giving a software as a radio through mobile phones, because of the usage of mobile phones per one person as higher amount of 140 per cent However it is difficult to gain by 100 per cent within one year. Therefore it is mentioned that optimizing objectives of this to be decide it needs more time than that.

Recommendation

Proper procedure should be process to communicate the fundamental objectives and targets more effectively and productively to the pople.

(b) It had been agreed with a private institution to pay an amount of Rs.9,403,900 for purchasing of software on service availability basis for the launch 'e' newspaper in the year 2020 for a period of 3 years and publishing of and setting up of basic pages for the e" newspapers, the number downloaded 'e' newspaper was 15279 that is 0.86 per cent out of total number of Samurdhi beneficiaries as per the information presented by the relevant private institution by the month of April 2022 . The expenditure incurred for this was Rs. 5,358, 400 by the end of year under review.

Once downloaded 'e' newspaper, it can read any person who use computer, tab or mobile phones. Accordingly the number of followers could not be decided through the number of downloaded it. Furthermore being starting of 'e' newspaper passed nearly one year and it is in primary level, it was not a sufficient period of time to get increased it.

A suitable procedure should be processed to communicate more efficiently and effectively among people.

3.3 Non achievement of expected Output Level

The following observations are made

Observation

(a) Out of the provision of Rs. 10.83 million made for the preparation of the plan related to the programme of empowerment of 200,000 of Samurdhi beneficiary families and survey of grouping 1,777,086 number of Samurdhi beneficiaries amount of Rs. 10.03 million had been incurred for the printing of the necessary forms for grouping of families for the survey of 714,900 number of families. Accordingly physical progress was 40 per cent and financial progress was 93 per cent.

Comment of the Accounting Officer

These provisions had been spent for printing of forms needed to categorized relevant families needed for the survey of families. Accordingly action to be taken to printing of forms that should be done first, by each district. Therefore the financial progress had been a 93 per cent.

Recommendation

Planned activities should be implemented properly.

(b) Even though an amount of Rs. 6.23 million had been given for the year under review for obtaining the technical support and for awareness programs required for the empowerment programme. its financial progress as at 31 December was Rs. 4.81 million that is 77 per cent. Out of this amount 91 per cent had been incurred to conduct awareness programmes for officers and training had been given only in the districts of Polonnaruwa and Mannar incurring of Rs.414,883 for 9 different projects.

In accordance with the instructions had been given the possibility to have provisions relating to the projects implemented by all districts and technical training and workshops in Polonnaruwa and Manner districts had been taken to provisions regarding this.

Planned activities should be implemented properly.

(c) Even though the provision of Rs. 530,000 had been provided for the construction of proposed fertilizer yard at Balangoda Training Center. It had not been commenced even by 31 December.

It was planned to supply of timber needed to construct fertilizer yard. Even though the Divisional Secretary informed that it was not legal cutting and using for another objective and the approval regarding that had not given by the Divisional Secretary of Balangao. This project could not be implemented on the issue of supplying of timber.

Planned activities should be implemented properly.

(d) An amount of Rs. 3,364,505 had been incurred out of the provision allocated under the programme of special Livelihood Development for displaying banners in 1736 offices for make aware of the people in respect of the inaugural programme of Empowerment of 200000 samurdhi families.

Action to be taken to aware of community on the level of Divisional Secretaries and banks regarding the inaugural programme.

Planned activities should be implemented properly.

3.4 Non achievement of expected Outcome

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation
Officer ------

Out of the allocated amount of Rs. 19,000,000 for the provision for supply of infrastructure for 30,842 of Samurdhi Community Organizations Based and Samurdhi Regional Organizations in 331 Divisional secretariats under community Resource Development An amount programme Rs. 13,710,000 had been incurred to purchase office equipment for 2742 number of Samurdhi Community Based Organizations and Samurdhi Regional Organizations

It was informed that this situation had arisen due to unavailability of methodology to remit cash or to give provisions on the issues of administrating of district and divisional level due to Covid pandemic situation when providing and remitting provisions for the supply of office equipment for samurdhi community base organizations and divisional organizations.

Planned activities should be properly implemented.

3.5 **Procuments**

The following observations are made.

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation
Officer -------

(a) Even though the Action Plan and the Procument Plan should be prepared in accordance with the paragraph 3 and 4 of the **Public** Finance Circular No.2/2020 and the Budget circular No. 7/2020 dated 23 December 2021 without doing an amount of Rs.10,642,564 had been paid in December 2021 for the construction and renovation Suwa Bojun of, centers, purchase of equipment and making boards and banners etc.

Expenditure has been incurred into approved activities by district wise following procument procedure.

Action should be taken in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Department of Public Finance.

(b) When preparing the Procument Plan, It had not been prepared including detailed activities procument and time procument table in accordance with the 4.2.1(c) and 4.2.2(a) of the Government procument guideline. Purchase of office equipment valued at Rs. 7,371,546 had not been included in the procument plan and the Action plan in the year under review.

By using the provisions of 2509 vote to buy office equipment for urgent and essential activities due to the insufficiency of provisions allocated under the vote of 2102 supply of for the equipment in the current year and it was not included in the procument plan and it is notified that to avoid these issues later.

Action should be taken in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Department of Public Finance.

3.6 Securities of Government Officers

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation -----Officer _____

The officers to receive or be in Keeping of giving security had Action should be taken in terms charge of and administratively responsible for the money, revenue, stamps or goods of the Government and entrusted with responsibilities relating Government Accounts had not gave securities in accordance with the Security Ordinance. In terms of Financial Regulations 880.

been started.

of the Financial Regulations.

3.7 **Assets Management**

The following observations are made.

Observation Comment of the Accounting Recommendation -----Officer -----_____

(a) There are 14 number of motor cycles in the Register of Vehicle of the Department of Samurdhi and action had not been taken to acquisition of these motor cycles as assets of the department.

Relevant fact is accepted, the Institute which was the first owner of these motor cycles already closed and action to be taken to submit it to the General being Comptroller transferred to these motor cycles to the department by filling of relevant forms and applications.

Action should be taken to acquisition of assets.

(b) It was observed that 33 number of vehicles out of 146 vehicles available in the Department of Samurdhi had been parked unsafely for a long time in the premises of the department and in the car park at Densil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Due to the technical faults. It was observed that 14 vehicles out of that are in condition to be repaired and running accordingly the reports submitted by the technical officers in the month of October 2020 and in the month of July 2021. The Management of the department had not taken action to repair these vehicles even by 24 April 2022, the date of audited. As this way, If these unsafe vehicles are kept without being repaired soon, it would become unusable, excessive repair charges and misplacement of spare parts of vehicles may occur and it is the responsibility of the management to prevent it.

It is informed that there are some delays may be occurred due to the insufficient of provisions to take action on recommendations given by the technical committee to repair or to dispose of all the vehicles which were under technical defectives. **Fundamental** activities been done had regarding 4 numbers of vehicles.

Usage of funds should be done economically and effectively to fulfill the objectives of the Department.

3.8 Failure to reply Audit Queries

Answers were not submitted to the 3 audit quarries submitted in the previous year and 3 audit quarries submitted in the year under review. The period of delaying had ranged from one month to over 29 months. The value of transactions that can be calculated relating to those quarries was Rs. 192,875,829.

It was accepted that there had been a delay in giving answers for audit queries during last year. Answers for all the audit queries were drafted by this time and action to be taken to submit it

In terms of Financial Regulation 155 inspecting the Audit Query Register referred to in Financial Regulations 452 (1) by the accounting officer steps have been taken to correct shortcomings which reveal and the replies for audit queries

should be given immediately.

3.9 **Management Weaknesses**

The Following observations are made.

(a) Even though it had been mentioned that the relevant

land should be a land that can be transferred to the Department when constructing Suwa Boiun centers and should be a land of at least 20 perches. as per the letter of the Director General addressed to the District Samurdhi Directors DSD/HO/6/EP/2/55/10 dated 31 May 2019 and also a sum of Rs. 171,370,352 had been incurred by the Department for the construction of 31 Suwa Bojun centers from the period of year 2016 to 2021. Action had not been taken to entrust legal ownership of

Aware of all the District Samurdhi Directors by the letter No. DSD/HO/6/EP/6/SS/assign of dated 30 April 2022 to take action to transferring of lands which Suwa Bojun Centers established.

Action should be taken to obtain legal ownership of lands.

(b) Even though the expenditure Rs. 171,370,352 had been incurred by the department far SO for establishment, renovation and repairs of Suwa Bojun centers, during the period from the year 2016 to 2021. was observed that strategies were not used to generate any income from it.

those lands.

Instructions had been issued to credit income of Suwa Bojun centers and sales centers to the account bearing of Divisional Society at the community based banks.

Plans should be prepared for the development programs of empowering of samurdhi beneficiaries and should be implemented properly.

3.10 **Examination on Losses and Damages**

The following observations are made.

Observation Comments of the Chief Recommendation Accounting Officer

(a) Action had been done in terms of F.R 104(3) and 104(4) after year 2 ½ to year 5 years of the accidents in relation to 5 No of vehicle accidents that occurred in the year 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Inspections had been done. Should be take action in terms of

Regulations.

(b) It was observed at the audit test checks carried out that the action had not been taken enter the accidents that occurred in relation to 6 vehicles in to the register of losses and damages.

Actions are being taken to enter regarding the 6 number of vehicles in to the register of losses and damages and receiving of decisions of inspection for that.

Should be entered in the register properly.

Financial

(c) Even though a preliminary reports in terms of Financial Regulations 104 (3) and a full report in terms of Financial Regulations 104 (4) is required to be submitted after occurrence of accidents, it was revealed during the audit test checks carried out that the reports have not been submitted regarding vehicles of the department.

Action had been taken to Should be take action in appoint committees to take inspection reports of regarding vehicles accidents had occurred in the past years.

terms of Financial Regulation

(d) It had been determined by the judgment of court dated 10 August 2016 that the driver being the offender regarding the vehicle which met with an accident 05 on May 2016. An amount of 564,840 received insurance compensation for repairing of this vehicle had been incurred. The

As the driver has been the constituted offender by the court relevant to the Financial Regulations examination done by the vehicle accident, necessary action to be taken regarding the recovery of Rs. 564,840 spent for insurance compensation.

Action should be taken to recover the relevant amount from the party which should be responsible for the damage.

management had not considered to recover the relevant amount from the parties liable to damages.

3.11 \ Irregular Transactions

The following observations are made.

Observation -----

Comments of the Chief Recommendation Accounting Officer -----

The approval had been given for crediting the fees charged during the issuance of certificates and renewal annually to Samurdhi National Social Development Fund in terms of section 4(3)(2)of the Act by the Director General to Samurdhi Community Based **Organizations** Organizations Regional in accordance with the decision of National Council No. 2019/41/04 Accordingly an amount 34,157,800 charged Rs.500 for new certificates and Rs.300 for renewal had remained in the Samurdhi National Social Development Fund as at 31 December 2021. The income of Rs. 46,822,495 earned by selling of flags and stickers launched in simultaneously with the 'World No Tobacco Day' on 31 May In accordance with the Sri Lanka Samurdhi Authority Act No.30 of 1995 had been credited to this Fund. without having instructions from the Treasury regarding this Samurdhi National Social Development Fund and regularizing of its activities and establishing a statutory situation, arrangements had been made to collect money and to invest an amount of Rs.87,500,000 in fixed deposits.

Samurdhi National Social Development Fund which was maintained under Samurdhi Authority under the section 45 of Divineguma Act No.2 of 2017 for social development of the beneficiaries the legislative power had received to maintain it.

Action should be taken to legislate Funds by Act of parliament.

4. Good Governance

4.1. Audit and Management Committee

Observation	Accounting Officer				
	Comments	of	the	Chief	Recommendation

Due to the Audit Management committee had not properly reviewed the reports of the Auditor General and taken the necessary accurate steps to the reoccurrence prevent deficiencies, the activities of the Audit and Management committee had not been performed properly In terms of section 41 of National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

and It is reviewing of the audit Action should be taken to fulfill reports which were reported by the Auditor General in the audit and management committee and had been taken feedback frequently by that time.

the tasks of the audit and management committee properly.

5. Human Resources Management

The approved and the actual cadre as at 31 December 2021 was as follows.

Category	Approved	Actual staff	Vacant	Excess
Senior	106	66	40	-
Tertiary	2501	2,388	259	146
Secondary	24,952	21,757	3,942	747
Primary	516	434	90	8
	28,075	24,645	4,331	901
	=====	=====	====	====

The following observations are made.

to

arrangement

	Comments of the Chief	Recommendation	
Observation	Accounting Officer		
(a) There were 11 numbers of	Letters has been rendered several	Action should be taken to solve	
approved posts of Director, 20	times to the Ministry of Public	the administrative issues by	
numbers of approved Accountant	Administration to appointing of	expediting the activities.	
posts and 6 numbers of District	officers of the executive level of		
Samurdhi Director posts in	the department in island wide.		
vacant by 31 December 2021.	And also filling the vacancies		
The Department had made	relating to the secondary, tertiary		

make and primary level had been hold

appointments for these vacant on performing duties, posts acting and covering of duties from the beginning of the Department. Further there were 4291 number of vacancies in the secondary, tertiary and primary level of posts and 746 number of posts unapproved Development Officers had belonged in to the actual cadre.

by that time by Treasury circular. And also a 2403 number of graduates had attached to this department on the permanent basis department the management service had given approval for that even by

(b) Even though the number of Samurdhi managers should be in Polonnaruwa district Samurdhi offices, Banks and Bank Societies, Offices are 54 and the actual cadre was 27 as at 30 June 2021. According to the audit test checks by this 9 number of samurdhi managers have been working on acting basis on vacant position in addition to the permanent place of the duty reporting for more than 5 years. Further 476 number of Samurdhi Development Officers were approved the actual cadre was the 410 number.

to fill Action to be taken vacancies paying of special as attention to this when recruiting performance of the department. in the future.

Action should be taken to attach per increasing

(c) A Director General should be appointed to implement and fulfill the authority and functions the Department and Director Generals had been appointed for this position within a period of 8 years since the Department established and it was observed that the making of the most of those had adversely affected to the performance of the department.

11 numbers of officers were appointed to the post of Director General due to the reason of changing of Honorable Ministers in several occasions after the Department established.

Attachments should be done according to increase of performance of the department.

- Even though the Public Service Commission had approved 870 number of officers who had expressed their willingness to join the service of Department contributing continuously to the Employee Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund without having pension rights, arrangements had not been made even by 31 December 2021 to approve the promotion procedures and make relevant recruitments Further, steps had not been taken so far to approve the recruitment procedures for the posts of Administrative officer, Technical officer, audit officer.
- Recommendations from the national salary commission and the Department of management service for number 12 recruitment and promotion procedures for officers who willing to join under the Fund and approval from the public service commission for appointment letters could be issued and also revised the recruitment procedure and the promotion procedure for the post of administrative officer and the Technical officer had referred to the public service commission by this time.

according to increase of performance of the department.

Attachments should be done

(e) Even though it had been stated that it can be recruited on contract basis under maximum of 12 months on the personnel recommendation of the secretary of relevant Ministry only for the essential posts which difficult or cannot accomplished from officers existing in service, by alternative measures such as acting appointments appoint to successor. As per 03ii and iii of Public Administration circular No. 3/2018 dated 20 February 2018 about 20 months had elapsed since retired officer was appointed to the post of Director administration which is not a difficult position to appoint a successor. It was mentioned that tasks of training a suitable successor within that period is the responsibility of the retired officer who is being redeployed. It had been done so as per circular.

An officer had appointed for the post of assistant director (Admin) by that time and therefore it was informed that there had not difficulties to maintain the tasks of Administration division.

Attachments should be done according to increase of performance of the department.

(f) According to the section 25 (3) of the Divineguma Act the Attorney General had informed that it was contrary to the law, government appointing of servants with pensions on a permanent basis for Community Based Bank staff as per the letter of Director General of the Department of Management Services dated 05 July 2019 and officers who had attached to the Department under 44 (e) i and ii of the Divineguma Act and the already working in Community Based Bank Societies should be considered as released to the institutions on a temporary basis and although it had been informed that separate posts for the bank cadre should be approved in future and after that arrangements should be made to recruit accordingly for the vacant posts, actions had not been taken by 31 December 2021 respect that and Department had paid salaries Approximately an amount of Rs. 3,944,366,634 for the 6444 number of Samurdhi bank cadre from January to 31 December 2021.

It was notified that there was no sever problem arising due to an officer of Sri Lanka Administrative Service had been appointed for the post of Director Administration

Action should be taken to attach as per increase the performance.

(g) The opportunity to amend the preference of officers who had expressed their interest to be absorbed had given by the Samurdhi circular 2018/6 dated 30 August 2018 and under the section 4 (e) iii and iv of divineguma act No. 01 of 2013 as amended by the Divineguma act No.02 of 2017. A entitlement had also been obtained for the old service period by submitting their

In accordance with the section 44 (e) iii of the Act, a cabinet paper rendered to have an approval regarding the salary of officers. According to the received it is expected to be amended the interest of officers. Therefore the said opportunity should be given to them. I further inform that after paying of all money to be paid to the Government by the officers

Administrative issues should be resolved and activities should be expided preference again. Some of them who retired and deceased for out of that officers had received gratuity by now as per the provisions with the gratuity Act no 12 of 1983 for the service period of the Authority under the II of Circular and even though the money should be reimbursed to the Government, it had not been recovered even by now.

settling of their pension, they will obtain their pension gratuity.