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of

The Eighth Parliament of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
(First Session)

REPORT
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT
TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF
MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM
THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE YEAR 2018

Presented by
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Chairman of the Committee

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*Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries
Selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018*

Committee:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. John Amaratunga

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. S. Shritharan

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan

REPORT

The following motion moved by the Leader of the House of Parliament on 17 October 2017 was approved by the House.

The Leader of the House of Parliament, – Select Committee of Parliament to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of the Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018, –

Whereas the period of time allocated to the Committee stage programme for the Budget Estimates of the year 2018 is limited;

And whereas several Heads of Expenditure have to be discussed on a single day thereby limiting the period of time available for the discussion of each Ministry;

That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to enable the Members to meet and discuss the Heads of Expenditure of the 10 Ministries in the Annexure which was decided at the Committee on Parliamentary Business with the concurrence of the Leader of the House of Parliament and the Chief Opposition Whip.

2. (a) The Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker.
(b) The Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Members selected from both the Government and the Opposition notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order No. 95 of the Parliament.
3. The Committee shall have power to –
 - (a) fix its quorum; and
 - (b) send for persons, papers and records, order any person to attend before Parliament or before such Committee;
4. The Committee shall present its report to the Parliament on or before the day on which the Committee stage debate on the votes of the said selected Ministries commences.

Annexure

- i) Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development
- ii) Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

- iii) Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages
- iv) Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation
- v) Ministry of Buddhasasana
- vi) Ministry of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs
- vii) Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs
- viii) Ministry of Special Assignment
- ix) Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
- x) Ministry of Science, Technology and Research

Accordingly, Hon. Speaker on 07 November 2017 appointed the following Members to serve in the Committee with Hon. Mahinda Samarasingha as its Chairman :-

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. S. Shritharan
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Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan

According to the motion approved by the House, Heads of Expenditure relating to 10 Ministries had been selected for consideration by Your Committee.

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Your Committee, at its first Meeting held on 15 November 2017, resolved that the Heads of Expenditure relating to the 10 Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018 be considered from 17 November to 23 November 2017 from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Accordingly, your Committee prepared a programme and circulated it among all Members of Parliament on 16 November 2017, intimating that all Members of Parliament may participate in the discussions of the Committee, as Your Committee wished all Members to participate in an open and fruitful dialog. The Committee wishes to note that such discussions held during the past have paved way to clear many unclarified issues. The Programme circulated among the Members of Parliament which included Heads of Expenditure taken up for consideration each day is given in **Appendix I** of this Report.

Your Committee also decided to summon the Secretary to the Ministry and the other relevant Officials when Secretary to the Ministry deems suit necessary of the relevant Ministry and institutions coming under such Ministry, and also the Officials of the General Treasury, the Department of National Budget, the Department of National Planning and the Department of Management Services and the Department of Auditor General to participate at the discussions of the Committee, to provide clarifications that may be required during the course of discussion.

Your Committee commenced its discussions at 10.00 a.m. on 17 November 2017 and concluded at 3.30 p.m. on 23 November 2017.

The practice of discussing Annual Estimates of selected Ministries continued for the seventh time this year, after the previous occasions in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. Your Committee wishes to reiterate that this procedure of discussing Annual Estimates at a Select Committee before the Committee Stage Debates has proved very successful and productive as many serious and outstanding matters have been discussed at length with the relevant Ministers, key Officials of the relevant Ministries, Officials of the General Treasury and the Officials of the Department of Auditor General and clarifications obtained and resolved at these Meetings. Your Committee appreciates the interest of the Members of Parliament towards this Select Committee and contribution made during its discussions.

Your Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the services of the Chairman of the Select Committee- the Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports and Shipping.

Your Committee appreciates the services of the Hon. Ministers to whom the subjects and functions under above mentioned Ministries were assigned, for their presence and contributions made during the presentation of their Ministries' progress and future plans, in explaining matters to the Members and answering the issues raised.

Your Committee also wishes to place on record its appreciation for the participation and contribution made by the Members of the Committee, as well as all the Members of Parliament who were present at the Meetings of the Committee in discussing various matters relating to the Ministries and Institutions under each Ministry.

The Committee emphasizes that had the Members participation been more, the result of the discussion would have been more useful and beneficial to the Parliament as well as the whole country.

Your Committee appreciates the contribution made by the Secretaries to the Ministries and the other key Officials who were present at the Meetings and thank them for making exhaustive and very informative presentations when the Heads of Expenditure of their Ministries were discussed.

Your Committee is also thankful to the Officials of the General Treasury and the Department of Auditor General who were present at all the Meetings to assist the Committee and provided the Committee and other Members with all necessary data and information.

Your Committee is very much pleased to note that the services rendered by the Parliament Secretariat in this endeavor were extremely efficient during this short period of time.

Your Committee states that all the deliberations that took place with the Officials of the Ministries and the other Institutions were very useful, cordial and friendly and many outstanding issues could be rectified through discussions and clarifications.

Your Committee wishes to recommend to Parliament that this procedure be improved and continued in future, and it is suggested that it would be more productive if more Heads of Expenditure are considered by a Select Committee every year. Your Committee is of the view that this provides a good opportunity for the Members of Parliament to have matters clarified with the Officials, as such facility is not available in Parliament during the Committee Stage debate of the Budget. It will also pave the way to place before Members of Parliament, the progress made during the current year and the development plans for the ensuing year.

Verbatim Records of all the Meetings of the Committee have been printed,

bound and placed in the Library for easy reference of the Hon. Members of Parliament. The Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee are given in **Appendix II** of this Report.

Recommendations regarding Heads of Expenditure:

The 2018 Estimates under Heads of Expenditure relating to each Ministry considered and recommended by your Committee, together with a summary of the discussion and matters agreed upon at the Meetings are given below.

Head 165- Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation

Rs. 000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	364,596	3,531,751	2,770,318
Recurrent Expenditure	70,893	112,405	116,308
Capital Expenditure	293,703	3,419,346	2,654,010
165-Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation			
Total Expenditure	364,596	3,531,751	2,770,318
Recurrent Expenditure	70,893	112,405	116,308
Capital Expenditure	293,703	3,419,346	2,654,010

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 165- Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation.

The Committee noted the eleven elements included in the budget proposals for the year 2018 mainly focused on economic empowerment and social infrastructure development and special programme to address the needs of the differently abled women in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and establishment of two processing centers mainly for Palmyrah in Kilinochchi and Delft Island, Establishment of a modern dedicated economic center in Jaffna connected to Dambulla Economic Centre and Colombo.

The Committee was of the view that the integration and religious equality among all Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims be ensured when doing the Constitutional Reforms.

The Committee understood that it had been reported certain minor religious conflict incidents in some Districts and His Excellency the President was concerned in formulating District Reconciliation Committees, which are in the ground level of the districts comprising of inter-religious leaders, police officers, retired judges and retired school Principals to amicably settle such issues.

The Committee suggested the Ministry to take necessary actions to open up investments on tourism sector and develop livelihood in the Northern area, and also to submit proposals from interested investors.

The Committee also suggested the Ministry to pay attention on developing road system and schools in the area in order to encourage the investors to make their selection in investing in post war areas.

Heads 157, 236 - Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages

Rs. 000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	587,787	1,063,390	762,570
Recurrent Expenditure	422,422	527,299	524,670
Capital Expenditure	165,365	536,091	237,900
157-Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	452,107	895,408	609,305
Recurrent Expenditure	327,391	392,667	385,405
Capital Expenditure	124,715	502,741	223,900
236-Department of Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	135,680	167,982	153,265
Recurrent Expenditure	95,031	134,632	139,256
Capital Expenditure	40,649	33,350	14,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 157 and 236 - Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages.

The Committee observed that several incidents of committing suicide due to inability to repay loans were reported in the recent past from North and East, and emphasized that the Ministry should speed-up the process of registering the micro finance companies under the National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations.

The Committee recommends that the improvement of competency in National Languages among Sri Lankans should be increased and the Ministry should use advanced new technology and tools to promote National Languages.

On a suggestion made by the Chairman, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages should work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and design a program to implement Official Languages Policy in schools as it would be a more effective way to promote National Languages.

Head 194 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure

Rs.'000	2017		
	2016	Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	995,714	17,622,994	2,270,142
Recurrent Expenditure	130,629	210,203	214,142
Capital Expenditure	865,085	17,412,791	2,056,000
194 - Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure			
Total Expenditure	995,714	17,622,994	2,270,142
Recurrent Expenditure	130,629	210,203	214,142
Capital Expenditure	865,085	17,412,791	2,056,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimate for the Head 194- Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure.

The Committee Members paid their attention on not spending a sum of Rs. 15 Billion for projects, out of Rs. 17 Billion allocated for the Ministry.

The Chairman of the Committee recommended to establish a National Council (an Apex Body) similar to National Council for Disaster Management under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President to facilitate smooth operation of inter-ministerial activities of the projects conducted by ICTA. The Secretary to the Ministry agreed to pursue the matter.

The Chairman of the Committee recommended ICTA to reduce allocating projects to non-governmental vendors and to call open tenders and give first right of refusal to the Sri Lanka Telecom, which helps ICTA to award tenders to government organization for the best price.

The Chairman of the Committee also advised the Secretary to the Ministry to get the Cabinet approval to the Information System Standards formulated by ICTA so that they could be considered National Standards.

Speaking on the Ministry's decision to submit supplementary Estimates to cover financial shortages, the Chairman stated that the General Treasury would not allow Supplementary Estimates since it affects the budget deficit. Instead he advised the Ministry to get either loans from local banks or transfer

funds between Heads of Expenditure with the approval of the General Treasury.

The Chairman of the Committee requested the Officials of the Ministry to submit reports regarding the difficulties they face with their proposals to overcome such difficulties. (The report submitted is given in **Appendix III**)

Head 167 - Ministry of Special Assignments

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	72,096	161,754	105,000
Recurrent Expenditure	59,658	66,069	74,000
Capital Expenditure	12,438	95,685	31,000
167-Minister of Special Assignments			
Total Expenditure	72,096	161,754	105,000
Recurrent Expenditure	59,658	66,069	74,000
Capital Expenditure	12,438	95,685	31,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 167 - Ministry of Special Assignments.

The Hon. Minister of Special Assignments stated that the planned Monorail system from Kandy to Matale and the construction of the Highway, joining Kandy to Highway network would be expedited.

The Secretary to the Ministry of Special Assignments pointed out a multi-model transport system would also be built in Kandy to reduce traffic intensities, which would also be helpful to prevent the air pollution level of the town.

The Hon. Minister added that 'Guhagoda Wasteland Project' would be implemented to be used in human friendly manner.

The Committee highly appreciated the work of the Minister and the Ministry of Special Assignments for their efforts put in for the betterment of the country.

Head 108, 202 & 308 - Ministry of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	12,927,368	13,041,762	13,530,800
Recurrent Expenditure	12,503,939	12,307,582	13,157,800
Capital Expenditure	423,429	734,180	373,000
108-Minister of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	380,163	298,572	146,000
Recurrent Expenditure	122,644	123,592	134,300
Capital Expenditure	257,519	174,980	11,700
202-Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	127,474	137,855	150,700
Recurrent Expenditure	97,124	100,655	91,000
Capital Expenditure	30,350	37,200	59,700
308-Department of Posts			
Total Expenditure	12,419,731	12,605,335	13,234,100
Recurrent Expenditure	12,284,171	12,083,335	12,932,500
Capital Expenditure	135,560	522,000	301,600

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 108, 202 and 308- Ministry of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious affairs.

The Committee recommends to establish “Postal Sorting Centers” in main Post Offices of the country in order to reduce the expenditure and to expedite the mail delivery system.

The Committee recommends to modernize the main Post Office in Gampaha, and also to provide free Wi-Fi areas and SMS service facilities to main Post Offices.

The Committee recommends to use the bare lands in Gampaha town and re-acquire the land used by the Police Department, which belongs to the Department of Posts, as it could make a source of income for the Department.

The Committee emphasized the need to take measures to speed up distributing letters to estate employees.

The Hon. Minister of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs, pointed out the difficulties faced due to inadequate budgetary allocation to the Muslim Religious Affairs.

The Hon. Minister requested the Chairman to intervene to make arrangements in the Sri Lankan Embassy in Saudi Arabia to have a separate office to facilitate Haj and Umra pilgrims.

The Committee appreciated the work of the Hon. Minister and the Officials of the Ministry.

Head 196- Ministry of Science, Technology and Research

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimates
Total Expenditure	3,294,255	5,762,361	5,643,200
Recurrent Expenditure	1,600,207	1,833,336	1,863,600
Capital Expenditure	1,694,048	3,929,025	3,779,600
196- Minister of Science, Technology and Research			
Total Expenditure	3,294,255	5,762,361	5,643,200
Recurrent Expenditure	1,600,207	1,833,336	1,863,600
Capital Expenditure	1,694,048	3,929,025	3,779,600

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 196- Ministry of Science, Technology and Research.

The Committee mainly focused on the technology introduced by the National Engineering Research and Development Centre and the research and development projects planned by the Institutions coming under the Ministry and the 'Mineral Policy' that is intended to implement in near future.

The Committee observed the importance of the research and development activities of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and strongly recommends to facilitate with adequate budgetary provisions enabling successful continuation and completion of the projects and researches carried out by the Institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry, especially focusing the researches on non-communicable diseases, Nanosatellite project and other important projects of the NERD Centre. The Committee also recommends to allocate funds to implement the 'Mineral Policy'.

The Committee having identified the importance of the NERD technology in relation to the development of the country, recommends to allocate more

funds for the awareness campaigns to make aware the public about the technology and the new findings through media and the Chairman of the NERD Centre requested political level involvement to propagate the technology to the district level and rural areas.

Further considering the economic and environmental benefits of the NERD technology, the Committee suggests the Ministry to submit a Cabinet Paper stating that written opinion of the NERD as a requirement when initiating governmental development projects, especially constructing of bridges.

The Committee also recommends to give incentives to scientists as in previous, to encourage them.

Further, considering the proposals of the Ministry given in **Appendix IV**, the Committee recommends to allocate additional funds for new research activities.

Head 101, 201 - Ministry of Buddhasasana

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	2,018,144	3,022,813	1,462,955
Recurrent Expenditure	1,264,888	2,000,256	711,645
Capital Expenditure	753,256	1,022,557	751,310
101 - Minister of Buddhasasana			
Total Expenditure	871,718	1,679,468	903,970
Recurrent Expenditure	162,732	712,361	207,360
Capital Expenditure	708,986	967,107	696,610
201 - Department of Buddhist Affairs			
Total Expenditure	1,146,426	1,343,345	558,985
Recurrent Expenditure	1,102,156	1,287,895	504,285
Capital Expenditure	44,270	55,450	54,700

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 101 and 201 of the Ministry of Buddhasasana.

The Committee noted the appreciations received by the Ministry locally and internationally for their services rendered at the 14th United Nation Vesak Day Commemoration Festival held with the participation of 72 countries, 742 international representatives and

observers and also for undertaking of reconstruction work of a Hindu Temple in Nepal which was damaged due to recent earthquake.

In regard to the construction of the Vidyalkara International Buddhist Conference Hall, the Committee was of the view that it would be better if this Conference Hall could be managed under the Ministry of Buddhasasana and recommended to obtain the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for this purpose.

The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry and the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs to submit a report regarding the issues they faced and the job description of the 'Buddhist Affairs Coordinators' who were attached to the Divisional Secretariats for the information of all Members. (The report submitted is given in **Appendix V**)

The Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne stated that there is a new global trend to study Buddhism and the Ministry need to look into that requirement as well.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	548,071	2,848,533	1,024,477
Recurrent Expenditure	252,914	866,963	512,507
Capital Expenditure	295,157	1,981,570	511,970
159 - Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	388,334	2,613,683	918,660
Recurrent Expenditure	115,002	689,883	438,760
Capital Expenditure	273,331	1,923,800	479,900
203 - Department of Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	159,738	234,850	105,817
Recurrent Expenditure	137,912	177,080	73,747
Capital Expenditure	21,826	57,770	32,070

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 159 and 203 - Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs.

The Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya emphasized that the Rs. 7 Million revenue targets of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority in 2020, is not

realistic when considering the present status.

The Chairman explained that the image of the country had started to improve due to the good governance after the year 2015, attracting the western tourists who consider the human rights and safety conditions in the country was now favourable. He stated that the promotion activities should be done bilaterally with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also stated that in most of the countries tourism sector was mainly in the hands of the private sector. He suggested that the Cabinet of Ministers who visit the foreign countries should attempt to promote the image of Sri Lanka and also stated that Foreign Ministry and the Embassies could play a greater role in promoting the tourism industry.

The Chairman requested the Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs to submit a report on the Domestic Tourism Promotion. (The report submitted is given in **Appendix VI**) The Chairman emphasized the need for developing Trincomalee as a center for cruise liner.

The Committee, having considered the matters discussed, recommends -

- to submit a Cabinet Paper on building another International Convention Center on a land near Waters' Edge Battaramulla;
- to launch capacity building programmes for the relevant officials at provincial level;
- to develop activities which tourists can enjoy around the tourist hot spots (night markets, theaters, adventure tourism etc.)
- to identify "Kithulgala" as tourism hot spot and to develop the area facilitating the out-bound activities for tourists
- to develop the Sri Lankan Hotel School to international level to attract the foreign students (under a public private partnership)
- to develop the Madu Church area providing necessary facilities such as water, sanitation etc.
- to promote tourism industry effectively with the co-operation of private sector

Head 140-Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,284,094	4,367,886	3,748,375
Recurrent Expenditure	189,124	335,376	348,375
Capital Expenditure	1,094,970	4,032,510	3,400,000

140 - Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Total Expenditure	1,284,094	4,367,886	3,748,375
Recurrent Expenditure	189,124	335,376	348,375
Capital Expenditure	1,094,970	4,032,510	3,400,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimate for the Head 140 Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development.

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development explained that Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) currently experiences considerable financial difficulties to carry out its activities and perform certain key services to the people in the plantation sector.

The Chairman of the Committee recommends to strengthen the relationship between RPCs and Assistant Government Agents (AGAs) of the areas to overcome problems faced by the plantation sector people in addition to strengthening relationship with District Coordinating Committees and Divisional Coordinating Committees.

The opinion of the Committee was that there should be proper coordination between the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and the Ministry to avoid the delay in releasing of lands to the estate workers.

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne too emphasized that Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) should have a good relationship with the respective AGAs and stated the bare lands within the estates should be given to the estate workers for cultivation so that they could sell the products to the RPCs thus benefitting both parties. The Committee recommends to submit a Cabinet Paper in this regard.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem stated that progress of "Outgrower Programme" of estates in Kandy and Matale are at satisfactory level. He recommends that necessary steps be taken to develop Tourism Industry in estate areas

especially in Rangala, Kandy etc, as that would help to retain the employees in the estates since migration had become a major problem at present. That would also help to increase job opportunities for young generation.

The Chairman of the Committee stated that steps must be taken to enhance the integration between the villages and estates by providing infrastructure facilities such as improving the existing roads to have access to remotely located and isolated estates.

Agreeing with suggestion made by Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, the Chairman recommends that the roads in estate sector should come either under the RDA or the Provincial RDA.

The Chairman of the Committee is of the view that the hospitals in the estate sector should be taken over by the Provincial Health Authorities as only 20% of the estate hospitals were currently under them.

Head 145,204,232 & 326 Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Re-settlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	22,007,886	19,781,971	11,425,912
Recurrent Expenditure	6,106,453	6,892,746	8,278,162
Capital Expenditure	15,901,433	12,889,225	3,147,750
145-Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Re-settlement and Hindu Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	14,622,937	12,723,340	4,818,150
Recurrent Expenditure	932,772	1,011,265	2,676,150
Capital Expenditure	13,690,165	11,712,075	2,142,000
232 - Department of Prisons			
Total Expenditure	226,806	244,548	249,110
Recurrent Expenditure	131,703	149,898	154,460
Capital Expenditure	95,103	94,650	94,650
204-Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	6,898,740	6,539,744	6,066,694
Recurrent Expenditure	4,792,326	5,467,744	5,170,594
Capital Expenditure	2,106,414	1,072,000	896,100

326-Department of Community Based Corrections

Total Expenditure	259,402	274,339	291,958
Recurrent Expenditure	249,652	263,839	276,958
Capital Expenditure	9,750	10,500	15,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads - 145, 204, 232 and 326 of the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs.

The Chairman noted the development projects carried out by the Ministry such as construction of new houses in Northern and Eastern Provinces for refugee returnees, development of minor tanks, sanitation facilities and infrastructure facilities, livelihood assistance, improvement of education sector, providing of domestic electricity, purchasing lands for landless families in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Hon. D.M. Swaminathan Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs informed about the opening up of the economic zone at Mankulam and the promoting of Palmyrah products for export market.

The Committee observed the delaying of construction of prison complex in Pallekelle even after the allocation of 160 million budgetary provisions in year 2017 and action was being taken to complete the construction within two years.

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan requested to look into the welfare of the women and disabled persons among the 12,000 rehabilitated persons and also to find a solution to water scarcity in Mannar which was their major problem, so that they could earn their living through agriculture.

The Secretary, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs stated that the 'project of providing one tank for one village' was operating with the assistance of a technical Committee appointed for each village. The Committee appreciated the steps taken by the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation to provide water sewing machines, cattle, chicks and other facilities for rehabilitated persons enabling them to start self-employment or other business.

The Committee observed that 250 million allocations had been given to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce under Heads 188 and 189 without any basis and requested from the Officials of the General Treasury to transfer the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs and UDA.

The Committee was informed that financial provisions are inadequate for the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation as suggested to develop the Yodawewa water project, Iranamadu tank and Mahatiththa fishing harbour project to facilitate the agro and fisheries industries. The Committee requested to submit a proposal on water tank project and the fisheries harbours. **(Appendix VII)**

The Committee suggests to obtain the facility to get the driving license to the youths in rehabilitation camps in order to reduce their unemployment problem and to initiate the NVQ level to driving license after discussing with the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training.

Appendix 1

Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries Selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Date	Time	Heads	Ministries
Friday 17/11/2017 (Day 01)	10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	165	Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation
	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	157, 236	Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages
	2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	194	Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
	3.30 p.m.- 5.00 p.m.	167	Ministry of Special Assignment
Saturday 18/11/2017 (Day 02)	10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	108, 202, 308	Ministry of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs
	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	196	Ministry of Science, Technology and Research
	2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	101, 201	Ministry of Buddhasasana
Thursday 23/11/2017 (Day 03)	10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	159, 203	Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs
	11.30 a.m -1.00 p.m	140	Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development
	2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	145,20 4,232, 326	Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

Appendix 2

Minutes of meetings of the Select Committee
to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries Selected from the
Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Dates of Meetings of the Committee

First Meeting	-Wednesday	15 November 2017
Second Meeting-	Friday	17 November 2017
Third Meeting-	Saturday	18 November 2017
Fourth Meeting-	Thursday	23 November 2017
Fifth Meeting-	Thursday	30 November 2017

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES
SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE YEAR 2018**

Wednesday, 15 November 2017 at 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff & Deputy Secretary - General of Parliament and
Secretary to the Committee

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary- General

The Committee met pursuant to the notice.

The Committee resolved that the quorum of the Committee shall be three Members.

The draft schedule of the Ministries submitted by the Secretary to the Committee was considered by the Committee and approved subject to certain amendments. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to sit on the following dates to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries referred to it by Parliament.

- **Friday, 17 November 2017** **10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, 18 November 2017** **10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, 23 November 2017** **10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

The Committee deliberated and resolved;

- a. to summon the Secretaries to the relevant Ministries and other Officials whose presence will be essential to explain matters at the Committee
- b. to summon the relevant Officials of the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media and Department of Auditor General to all Meetings.
- c. to invite the relevant Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers when their Ministries are taken up for consideration.
- d. to inform the Secretaries to the relevant Ministries to send the Progress Reports in all three languages early to circulate the same among the members of the Committee.
- e. to inform the Secretaries to make a brief presentation before the Committee on the followings.
 - Short Profile of the Ministry
 - List of activities completed and uncompleted by them during the year 2017

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

- Budgetary allocation for 2017
- the Budgetary allocation for 2018 and programme of work for 2018

The Committee agreed to the above suggestions.

The Committee was at 12.15 p.m. adjourned till 10.00 a.m. on 17 November 2017.

Sgd/Tikiri.K.Jayathilake

Secretary to the Committee

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES
SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE YEAR 2018**

Friday, 17 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srinshan

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the
Committee

Hon. Ministers Present:

Hon. A.H.M. Fouzie, State Minister of National Integration & Reconciliation

Officials Present from the Department of National Budget:

Ms. Nalani Amarathunga, Director
Mr. R.A.T.A. Ranaweera, Deputy Director

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. W.G.N. Manike, Assistant Auditor General
Ms. K.L.M.P. Gunathilake, Superintendent of Audit

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. John Amaratunga, proposed and seconded by Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne and Hon. S. Shritharan respectively, took the Chair.

Ministry of National Integration & Reconciliation

Officials Present:

Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy, Secretary, Ministry of National Integration & Reconciliation
Mr. S. Nanayakkara, Secretary, State Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation

Mrs. R. P. R. Amarasinghe, Additional Secretary (Deve.)
 Mrs. K. H. J. L. Senarathne, Senior Assistant Secretary
 Mrs. T. N. Gunawardhana, Accountant
 Mr. K. Nikarilkanth, Assistant Secretary (Deve.)
 Mrs. V. Anushyanthan, Assistant Director Planning
 Mr. M.S. Jayasinghe, Director General-ONUR
 Mr. N. D.Hettiarachchi, Deputy Director General
 Mr. S. Ekanayake, Deputy Director
 Mr. S. K. Jayasinghe, Deputy Director
 Mr. Mahesh Biyanwila, Development Officer
 Mr. A. D. P. S. Senarathne, Public Management Officer

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 165 of the Ministry of National Integration & Reconciliation.

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	364,596	3,531,751	2,770,318
Recurrent Expenditure	70,893	112,405	116,308
Capital Expenditure	293,703	3,419,346	2,654,010
165-Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation			
Total Expenditure	364,596	3,531,751	2,770,318
Recurrent Expenditure	70,893	112,405	116,308
Capital Expenditure	293,703	3,419,346	2,654,010

Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy, Secretary, Ministry of National Integration & Reconciliation made a presentation, including the Profile of the Ministry and Performance on Reconciliation Action Plan for the Year 2017 and the target plan for the Year 2018. In his presentation, he explained the progress achieved in 2017 under four thrust areas, in formulation of Reconciliation Policies, Strategies and Programmes, Promotion of National Integration and Reconciliation, Transitional Justice- Truth Seeking, Healing, Justice, Reparation and Non- Recurrence and elimination of Segregation.

He further explained that eleven elements are included in the budget proposals for the year 2018 and elaborated on housing programme, reconciliation focused economic empowerment and social infrastructure development and special programme to address the needs of the differently abled women in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Further he explained the Establishment of two processing centres mainly for Palmyrah in Kilinochchi and Delft Island, Establishment of a modern dedicated economic centre in Jaffna connected to Dambulla Economic Centre and Colombo, Supporting the establishment of Office on Missing Persons, District Reconciliation Committees, Strengthening the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka - EU, Development Assistance, Myliddy Fishery Harbour - Coastal Engineering study, Reconciliation focused highly prioritized road projects and Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) are as the elements.

The Hon. John Amaratunga enquired on targeting to convince the opposing groups for the Constitutional Reforms of the country. Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy replied that the

Minister-His Excellency the President, Hon. State Minister and the ONUR Chairperson; Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge have been advocating in this regard at a wider forums in almost all the areas and expecting to have a dedicated programme with the professionals and to internalization of this process in the action plan of the Ministry.

The Hon. S. Shriritharan suggested that it should be ensured integration and religious equality among all Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim people when doing the Constitutional Reforms. He further stated that Land and Police powers are not indicated in the Interim Report of the Constitutional Reforms and People in the North & East have many issues relating to lands, law & justice.

The Hon. John Amaratunga suggested the Secretary to the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation to concentrate on solutions for the ethnic and religious conflicts before addressing the economic issues. Answering to the question raised by the Hon. John Amaratunga as to whether the religious or ethnic conflicts had been reported, Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy stated that in certain districts minor incidents have been reported and His Excellency the President is concerned in formulating District Reconciliation Committees, which are the Committees in the ground level of the districts comprising of inter-religious leaders, Police Officers, retired Judges and retired school Principals to amicably settle the issues. Mr. Sivagnanasothy, further, suggested that it is important to strengthen the desperate people economically and make them fully engaged in economic activities and the needed financial allocations should be provided for them.

The Hon. Gnanamuthu Srinshan stated that unemployment and poverty problems are increasing while some agricultural industries and factories are still idle. He further stated that although a huge unemployment is prevailing, some outside people are getting employments in these areas. Therefore, he suggested to develop the agri businesses, industries and government jobs for the people in these areas and also to open up the existing factories while building up the new factories. The Hon. John Amaratunga suggested the Ministry to take necessary actions to open up investments on tourism sector and develop livelihoods in the Northern area and to submit proposals from interested investors. He further suggested that it is most suitable to develop tourism in these areas utilizing the small islands.

The Hon. S. Shriritharan suggested that similar attention should be paid on developing road system and school system in the area and he further stated that establishment of sound reconciliation would encourage the investors to make their selections in investing in post war areas.

The Hon. John Amaratunga added that the future of the country depends on the efforts we put on establishing Reconciliation and Integration.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 165- Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation.

At 11.30 a.m.

Present:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srinshan

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General (Legislative) and Secretary to the Committee

Other Members Present:

Hon. S. Yoheswaran

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Nalani Amaratunge, Director, Department of National Budget
Mr. R. A. T. A. Ranaweera, Deputy Director

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. W.G.N. Menike, Assistant Auditor General, Auditor General's Department
Ms. K. L. M. P. Gunatilake, Superintendent of Audit

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages

Officials Present:

Mr. W. M. P. G. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages
Mr. M. K. Muhais, Senior Assistant Secretary (Language Right Directories)
Mr. K. A. Thilakaratne, Additional Secretary (Development)
Mr. Ranjith Uyangoda, Chairman, Official Languages Commission
Mr. A. M. G. U. Abekoon, Administrative Officer
Mr. Prasad R. Herath, Director General, National Institute of Language Education and Training (NILET)
Mr. D. P. G. Pradeep, Chief Accountant
Ms. T.A.G.N. Suranji, Assistant Director (Planning)
Ms. P. M. Sudarshani Peiris, Director (Planning)
Ms. L. K. A. S. Gunasekara, Chief Internal Auditor
Ms. N. M. Weerakoon, Research Assistant
Mr. N. D. Kalansooriya, Chief Accountant, Department of Official Languages
Mr. Shaminda Mahalekam, Assistant Commissioner,
Mr. Ranjith Wimalasuriya, Director, National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 157 and 236 of the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages.

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	587,787	1,063,390	762,570
Recurrent Expenditure	422,422	527,299	524,670
Capital Expenditure	165,365	536,091	237,900
157-Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	452,107	895,408	609,305
Recurrent Expenditure	327,391	392,667	385,405
Capital Expenditure	124,715	502,741	223,900
236-Department of Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	135,680	167,982	153,265
Recurrent Expenditure	95,031	134,632	139,256
Capital Expenditure	40,649	33,350	14,000

Mr. W. M. P. G. Wickramasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages made a presentation explaining the progress of the Ministry in 2017 and targets for year 2018.

Responding to a question raised by the Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Mr. Ranjith Wimalasuriya, Director of National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations stated that existing Act would be amended to register the micro finance companies under the National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations. He added that public awareness on this registration process would be done through media.

Expressing views on the micro financing activities carried out by Non - Governmental Organizations, the Hon. S. Shriratharan stated that several incidents of committing suicide due to inability to repay loans were reported in the recent past from North and East. The Hon. Member encouraged the Ministry to speed-up the process of registering the micro finance companies.

Mr. W. M. P. G. Wickramasinghe stated that the officers from the Ministry had already been trained in collaboration with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on micro financing in order to streamline this process.

Responding to a question raised by the Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Mr. K. A. Thilakarathne, Additional Secretary (Development) to the Ministry explained the process of conducting the Language proficiency examination for Government Officers and Semi-Government Officers.

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee stated that improvement of competency in National Languages among Sri Lankans should be increased. The Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya suggested that the Ministry should use advanced new technology and tools to promote National Languages.

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee requested the Secretary to the Ministry to offer complementary copies of the “Tamil Head Word Trilingual Dictionaries” and “Sinhala Head Word Trilingual Dictionaries” prepared by the Ministry, to the Hon. Members of Parliament.

Responding to a question raised by the Hon. S. Shritharan, Mr. Prasad R. Herath, Director General of National Institute of Language Education and Training (NILET) explained about the Language Courses available for the public officers. The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee suggested that language lessons for the Hon. Members of Parliament should be conducted in Parliament on Parliament Sitting Days.

The Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri enquired about the process of providing funds to erect name boards at government institutions. Mr. W. M. P. G. Wickramasinghe explained the activities carried out by the Ministry in order to implement the Official Languages Policy.

The Hon. S. Shritharan suggested that when recruiting employees for Government Institutions or Teachers to the Schools in the North and East, priority should be given to natives of such area to avoid language problems.

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee recommended that the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages should work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and design a program to implement Official Languages Policy in schools as it would be a more effective way to promote national languages.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 157 and 236 - Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Hon. Gnanamuthu Srinshan

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilaka, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. J.M.H Banda, Director, Department of National Budget

Officials Present from Auditor General's Department:

Mr. G.H.D Dharmapala, Deputy Auditor General, Auditor General's Department

Mrs. K.R.T Manike, Audit Superintendent

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair.

Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure.

Officials Present:

Mr. Wasantha Deshapriya, Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure.

Mrs. S. Kannangara, Additional Secretary (Administration)

Mrs. S.N Hapuarachchi, Chief Accountant

Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala, Senior Assistant Secretary

Mr. S.K Batepola, Asst. Director (Planning)

Mrs. Chitranganie Mubarak, Chairperson, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

Mr. Ajith Madurapperuma, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Jagath Senevirathne, Head (Monitoring and Evaluation), Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

Mr. P.G Kumarasinghe, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Telecom

Mr. K.A.K Perera, Group Chief (Enterprise and Wholesale)

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 194 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	995,714	17,622,994	2,270,142
Recurrent Expenditure	130,629	210,203	214,142
Capital Expenditure	865,085	17,412,791	2,056,000
194-Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure			
Total Expenditure	995,714	17,622,994	2,270,142
Recurrent Expenditure	130,629	210,203	214,142
Capital Expenditure	865,085	17,412,791	2,056,000

Mr. Wasantha Deshapriya, Secretary to the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure made the presentation on the performance of the Ministry and stated that with the total allocation of Rs. 17 Billion for the year 2017 projects worth of Rs. 2 Billion had been successfully completed. Allocation for the year 2018 is Rs. 4 Billion.

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna stated that certain ICT projects launched by the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure were not successful and wished to know the reasons for same. Mr. Wasantha Deshapriya stated that the financial progress was poor in some projects but were expecting a growth up to 50% which are now only 10%.

While replying to a question raised by the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, as to what ultimate outcome the country has gained, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that due to the progress of these projects, Sri Lanka has been ranked in the International Benchmarks related to IT, but development of this sector was hampered due to less demand from the general public and cited a few examples.

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya requested the Secretary to explain the availability of a common data platform for personal data of citizens. The Secretary stated that there is a system called 'Lanka Gate' which collaborate nearly 40 services. He further stated that major government institutions like Customs Department, Inland Revenue Department were not prepared to use those systems although legal provisions were available causing a major impact on this objective.

The Chairman of the Committee recommended to establish a National Council (an Apex Body) similar to National Council for Disaster Management under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President to facilitate smooth operation of inter-ministerial activities of the projects conducted by ICTA. The Secretary to the Ministry agreed to pursue the matter.

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayaka enquired -

- 1) the reasons for poor progress (below 50%) for all projects except 3 launched by ICTA;
- 2) as to when ICTA is going to recruit new Chief Executive Officer; and
- 3) status of the Revenue Administration Management Information System project

Referring to poor progress, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that they have an action plan to improve the progress reducing underperforming projects and also, they have requested from the General Treasury to direct the relevant Ministries not to use funds allocated for IT projects for other purposes.

Regarding the CEO, Mrs. Chithrangini Mubarak, Chairperson of ICTA stated that they were in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive Officer.

Mrs. Chithrangini Mubarak stated that the Revenue Administration Management Information System project was ongoing and planned to complete in March 2018. She also explained the financial difficulties they had to face where the vendors could not be paid on time.

The Chairman of the Committee recommended ICTA to reduce allocating projects to non-governmental vendors and to call open tenders and give first right of refusal to the Sri Lanka Telecom, which helps ICTA to award tenders to government organization for the best price.

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe also advised the Secretary to the Ministry to get the Cabinet approval to the Information System Standards formulated by ICTA so that they could be considered National Standards.

The Chairman of the Committee also enquired about the Free Wi-Fi zones and Google Loon project from the Secretary to the Ministry. The Secretary stated that they have planned to establish around 30,000 free Wi-Fi zones island wide. He added that 860 government organizations would be empowered with High Speed Optical Fiber Connections and 2000 Wi-Fi zones to be created in such locations. The Ministry had planned to install 2 free Wi-Fi zones each in all 14000 Grama Niladharee Division island wide. He further stated that expectation of the Google Loon project was to

ensure island wide 4G coverage in an emergency situation, where all other infrastructure could fail.

Speaking on the Ministry's decision to submit supplementary Estimates to cover financial shortages, the Chairman stated that the General Treasury would not allow Supplementary Estimates since it affects the budget deficit. Instead he advised the Ministry to get either loans from local banks or transfer funds between Heads of Expenditure with the approval of the General Treasury.

While replying to the question raised by Hon. Mayantha Dissanayaka, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that there were no foreign investments in the ICT field, but some multi-national telecommunication vendors like Ericson and Huawei provide support to do research on 5G Technology.

Mr. P.G Kumarasinghe, Chairperson of Sri Lanka Telecom stated that they were going to launch a data center equipped with latest technology and on international standards in Pitipana area within the next few months.

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe requested the officials of the Ministry to submit reports regarding the difficulties they face with their proposals to overcome such difficulties. (The report submitted is given in **Appendix III**)

The Committee approved the Estimate for the Head 194 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure.

At 3.30 p.m.

Present:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilaka, Assistant Secretary General (Legislative) and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignment

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. H.A.V.P. Hapangama, Director

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. D.V. Chandralatha, Assistant Auditor General

Ministry of Special Assignment

Officials Present:

Mr. D. Nanayakkara, Secretary, Ministry of Special Assignment
Ms. N.K. Abeyratne, Additional Secretary
Ms. S.D.L.R. Sharojini, Chief Accountant
Ms.G.A.G.T. Ganepola, Internal Auditor

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 167 - Ministry of Special Assignment.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	72,096	161,754	105,000
Recurrent Expenditure	59,658	66,069	74,000
Capital Expenditure	12,438	95,685	31,000
167-Minister of Special Assignment			
Total Expenditure	72,096	161,754	105,000
Recurrent Expenditure	59,658	66,069	74,000
Capital Expenditure	12,438	95,685	31,000

Mr. D. Nanayakkara, Secretary to the Ministry of Special Assignment made a presentation explaining the progress in 2017 and targets for the year 2018. He added that although no Departments or Institutions were coming under the purview of the Ministry, their duty will be to implement special projects with the help of the Departments and Institutions coming under the purview of other Ministries.

The Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya questioned about the Research & Development (R&D) Divisions functioning under the Ministry. The Secretary said that a sum of Rs.50 million had been allocated as it is the minimum amount that could be allocated under the Budget, although the need for R&D was Rs. 10 million.

Responding to a question raised by the Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, the Hon. Sarath Amunugama stated that a project was underway to build a monorail system from Kadugannawa to Matale, and the planned highway would also be built in the coming years.

The Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake suggested that action be taken as a priority to reduce air pollution in the Kandy town. The Secretary to the Ministry replied that there was a multi-modal transport project planned by the Urban Development Authority which would provide a satisfactory solution to the problem. The Hon. Minister added that the main reason for pollution was the 'Guhagoda Disposal Ground' and a project had been planned to recycle the garbage.

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee appreciated the dedication and commitment of the Hon. Minister of Special Assignment and his Ministry.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 167 - Ministry of Special Assignment.

The Committee was at 4.00 p.m. adjourned till 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Sgd/ Tikiri K. Jayathilaka
Secretary to the Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES
SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE YEAR 2018**

Saturday, 18 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Leave of Absence:

Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Ministers Present:

Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Post, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Y.P. Sumana, Director, Department of National Budget

Ms. B.M.D.N. Balasooriya, Director, Department of Management Services

Ms. S.M.D.D. Samarakoon, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Officials present from the Auditor General's Department:

Mr. G.H.D. Dharmapala, Deputy Auditor, Auditor General's Department

Ms. K.R.T. Manike, Superintendent of Audit

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs

Officials Present:

Mr. D.G.M.V. Hapuarachchi, Secretary, Ministry of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim religious Affairs

Ms. A.S.M.S. Mahanama, Additional Secretary (Administration) Ms. S.H.A.N.D. Abeyaratne, Additional Secretary (Development)

Mr. K.A.S. Senadeera, Additional Secretary (Special Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs),

Ms. V.S. Kodippilarachchi, Chief Accountant

Mr. A.D.S. Somasiri, Director (Planning)

Mr. E.Y.P. Zoysa, Assistant Director (Planning)

Mr. K.L.D.N. Piyal, Accountant (Payments)

Mr. D.L.P.R. Abeyratne, Postmaster General, Department of Posts

Mr. W.A.G. Wickramasinghe, Deputy Postmaster General (Operations)

Mr. H.D.C.P. Gunasekara, Deputy Postmaster General (Admin)

Ms. A. Hemalatha, Chief Accountant

Ms. J.A.D.C.A. Ganepola, Chief Internal Auditor
 Mr. M.R.M. Malik, Director, Department Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs
 Mr. M.R. Nasimul Haq, Assistant Secretary
 Mr. M.H. Noorul Ameen, Assistant Director (Acting)

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 108, 202 and 308 of the Ministry of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	12,927,368	13,041,762	13,530,800
Recurrent Expenditure	12,503,939	12,307,582	13,157,800
Capital Expenditure	423,429	734,180	373,000
108-Minister of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	380,163	298,572	146,000
Recurrent Expenditure	122,644	123,592	134,300
Capital Expenditure	257,519	174,980	11,700
202-Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	127,474	137,855	150,700
Recurrent Expenditure	97,124	100,655	91,000
Capital Expenditure	30,350	37,200	59,700
308-Department of Posts			
Total Expenditure	12,419,731	12,605,335	13,234,100
Recurrent Expenditure	12,284,171	12,083,335	12,932,500
Capital Expenditure	135,560	522,000	301,600

Mr. D.G.M.V. Hapuarachchi, Secretary to the Ministry of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2017 and the programme of work for the year 2018.

The Committee recommended to establish "Postal Sorting Centers" in every main Post Office of the country in order to reduce the expenditure and to expedite the delivery system.

The Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma suggested to modernize the main Post Office in Gampaha, and also to provide free Wi-Fi areas and to provide SMS service facilities in main Posts Offices.

The Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma proposed to use the bare land in Gampaha town which belonged to the Department of the Posts and construct a new building which could be used to gain an income to the Department, in collaborating with the Private Sector. He suggested to set up a Supermarket and the Post Office in the building and to lease out the rest. The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, the Chairman of the Committee recommended to present a Cabinet Paper in this regard.

The Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma further suggested to re-acquire the land presently used by the Police Department but belonged to the Department of Posts, and to build a housing complex which also could be a source of income for the Department.

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

The Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna stated that postal services in estates in Ruwanwella were poor causing numerous difficulties to the residents. Mr. W.A.G. Wickramasinghe, Deputy Postmaster General (Operations), Department of Posts explained that the Department was facing problems in distributing letters to estate workers but measures have been taken to solve the problem as early as possible.

The Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs stated that he would discuss with the Hon. Prime Minister to implement the suggestions made by the Members of the Committee.

The Hon. Minister of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs, drew the attention of the Chairman of the Committee to the difficulties faced due to lack of sufficient budgetary allocation to meet all expenses of Muslim Religious Affairs. Hon. Chairman explained that similar difficulties were faced by the Ministries of Buddhasasana, Christian and Hindu Religious Affairs.

The Hon. Abdul Haleem requested the Chairman to intervene to make arrangements in the Sri Lankan Embassy in Saudi Arabia to have a separate office to facilitate Haj and Umra pilgrims.

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee appreciated the work of the Ministry.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 108, 202 and 308 - Ministry of Posts, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs.

At 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratna, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Y.P. Sumana, Director, Department of National Budget

Mr. R.M.D.N. Balasooriya, Director, Department of Management Services

Mr. S.M.D.D. Samarakoon, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Mr. G.H.D. Dharmapala, Deputy Auditor General, Auditor General's Department

Mr. W. Ananda, Deputy Auditor General

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Science, Technology and Research

Officials Present

Mr. Udaya R. Senevirathne, Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research
Mr. J.M. Mangalatissa, State Secretary, State Ministry of Science, Technology and Research
Mrs. D. Nandanie Samarawickrama, Additional Secretary (Administration and Finance)
Mr. H.M.B.C. Herath, Additional Secretary (Technology Research and Development)
Mr. M.C. Gamage, Chief Internal Auditor (Internal Audit)
Mrs. Himali W.K. Athaudage, Director (Internal Affairs)
Mrs. Sureka Hewage, Senior Assistant Secretary
Mrs. W.A.N. Kulatunga, Director (Planning)
Mrs. Nazeema Ahamed, Director (Planning)
Ms. P.G.R.H. Kumari, Director (TT)
Mr. P.M. Dharmatilake, Acting Director (Technology and Research Development)
Mr. P.N.S.K. Gunawardana, Chairman, Sri Lanka Standard Institution
Mrs. Nayana Satharasinghe, Acting Director General
Ms. Ruwani Vayomi Rubasinghe, Director (Finance)
Eng. W.J.L.S. Fernando, Chairman, Sri Lanka National Engineering Research and Development
Eng. D.D. Ananda Namal, Director General
Mrs. D.V.S. Perera, Director (Finance)
Dr. C. Mahesh Edrisinghe, Commissioner, Sri Lanka Investors Commission
Mr. N.N.W. Dolawatta, Director
Ms. D. Anusha Sarathchandra, Assistant Director (Finance)
Prof. A. Wickramasinghe, Chairman, Institute of National Fundamental Studies
Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Director
Prof. Sirimali Fernando, Chairperson, National Science Foundation
Dr. Jayantha Wattevidanage, Acting Director General
Mrs. Priyanka Bamunendra, Accountant
Prof. Dhammika A. Thantrigoda, Chairman, Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
Eng. Sanath Panawannage, Director General
Mr. Sanjeewa Weerapperuma, Senior Deputy Director (Finance)
Mr. Niroshan Perera, Chairman, Industrial Technology Institute
Dr. G.A.S. Premakumara, Director General
Mr. Neel Weerakoon, Accountant
Mr. L.H.D. Bandusoma, Acting Director, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board
Mr. D.G. Pushpakumara, Deputy Director (Financing and Administration)
Mrs. Manisha C. Rajapakshe, Executive Secretary, National Research Council
Ms. A.E.K. Dayarathna, Acting Accountant
Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara, Director, National Science and Technology Commission
Mrs. G.C. Kumari Peiris, Deputy Director (Finance and Administration)
Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Project Director, Coordinating Secretariat for Science Technology and Innovation
Dr. Sachie Panawala, Project Scientist

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Mrs. K.P.K. Koralagama, Assistant Director, Planetarium

Mr. Haren De Silva Wijerathne, Chief Executive Officer, SLINTEC (Pvt) Ltd

Mr. Anil Fernando, Head of Finance, SLINTEC (Pvt) Ltd

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 196-the Ministry of Science Technology and Research.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimates
Total Expenditure	3,294,255	5,762,361	5,643,200
Recurrent Expenditure	1,600,207	1,833,336	1,863,600
Capital Expenditure	1,694,048	3,929,025	3,779,600
196- Minister of Science, Technology and Research			
Total Expenditure	3,294,255	5,762,361	5,643,200
Recurrent Expenditure	1,600,207	1,833,336	1,863,600
Capital Expenditure	1,694,048	3,929,025	3,779,600

Mr. Udaya R Senewirathne, Secretary to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research made a presentation explaining the progress of the Ministry in 2017 and the target plan for the year 2018.

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research stated that although the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure had received a huge budgetary allocation for the year 2017, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research received a lesser amount than the amount requested for, and therefore requested the officials from the General Treasury to consider the need for technological advancements in the country when allocating budgetary provisions for such Ministries. He added that, as research and development are major factors in the development process of a country, and such advancement could not be achieved without intensive research and development activities.

He further stated that the technology introduced by the National Engineering Research and Development (NERD) Centre were found to be very valuable and suitable for construction of small bridges in rural areas and the '2000 bridges' project which was to be carried out by the Local Authorities would be more efficient if they could use this technology. The Committee agreed to make recommendations to Parliament in this regard.

The Chairman requested the Secretary to the Ministry to make a presentation about the NERD technology at the GA conference. The Secretary to the Ministry stated that they have already made a presentation and also gathered information about the bridges in rural areas.

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma pointed out that the technology possessed by the NERD Centre still remain unknown to the society as due publicity was not given. He stressed the value of promoting those technologies, and that it is important to make public aware of their usefulness. Replying to the Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that the promotion and awareness would greatly depend on the proprietor who holds the license and the Ministry has no obligation

under the existing system.

The Chairman of the NERD Centre stated that the Cabinet of Ministers has granted the approval to construct government buildings estimated up to Rs.50 million, without a procurement process using this technology and they hope to do some distinctive work in the next year. He requested the support to extend this technology up to district level and also beyond to rural areas.

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake congratulated the Minister for his work and suggested him to submit a Cabinet Memorandum making it a requirement to obtain an opinion from the NERD Centre for each future governmental development project specially on construction of bridges.

Answering to the question raised by the Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna about the ongoing research projects carried out by the Ministry on non-communicable diseases, Prof. Sirimali Fernando, Chairman, National Science Foundation (NSF) replied that the budgetary provisions received by the Foundation was not sufficient to complete the research activities planned for the year, especially about non-communicable diseases like diabetes and cancer. She explained that the NSF was carrying out an island wide research on diabetes under 3 major projects with a view to develop a database on diabetic patients, which was much required. Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna requested to do more researches on diabetes as it had become a severe problem in the Country.

Dr. G.A.S. Premakumara, Director General, Industrial Technology Institute, explained to the Committee of their important researches and informed about much valued products like Cinnamon capsules and Kotalahimbutu biscuits for diabetes. The Committee recommended that more funds need to be allocated for these projects.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of providing financial provisions continuously for those projects over many years until its completion, and not for one year. The Committee strongly recommended to provide sufficient funds for the research projects that would continue over many years. The Committee also recommended allocating more funds for the awareness campaigns through media regarding the new findings. The Chairman requested the Secretary to submit a report about the research projects which required more funds, for inclusion in the report to Parliament. **(Appendix IV)**

The Secretary to the Ministry brought to the notice of the Committee that the Ministry has developed a Mineral Policy and it would be appreciated if necessary support and funds are provided to implement the same. Mr. Niroshan Perera, Chairman, Industrial Technology Institute requested the Committee to consider providing incentives to Scientists as a motivation, as previously they have been paid a percentage from royalty. The Committee agreed to include these in their recommendations.

Explaining about the space technology, Nanosatellite projects and other researches, Eng. Sanath Panawannage, Managing Director, Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology stated that they have signed an MOU with Roscosmos (State Corporation to Space Activities) and carrying out research projects with several

leading universities in Russia. He stated that they have only received Rs.50 million out of Rs.380 million requested and hence the project as planned could not be continued. The Committee directed the Treasury officials to note it and the Chairman directed the Secretary to the Committee to include that in the Report.

The Chairman appreciated the work of the Ministry and the contribution of the Secretary to the Ministry for its achievement.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 196 of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Minister of Buddhasasana

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mrs. Dilrukshi Samarakoon, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Mrs. T.D.P. Liyanage, Director, Department of National Budget

Mrs. Nilusha Balasuriya, Director, Department of Management Services

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Mr. R.M.J. Rathnayake, Deputy Auditor General

Mr. R.M. Rathnayake, Assistant Auditor General

Ms. W.P.L.S.R. Perera, Superintendent of Audit

In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research proposed and seconded by Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma and Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna respectively, took to the Chair.

Ministry of Buddhasasana

Officials Present

Mr. Chandraprema Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana

Ms. J.A.A.N. Kannangara, Additional-Secretary (Admin)

Ms. Hema Darmawardane, Additional Secretary (Development)

Ms. U.H.K Dhenawatta, Senior Assistant Secretary

Mr. C. C. Jayasinghe, Assistant Secretary

Ms. K.K. Kaneru, Director (Development)

Mr. B.A. Premasinha, Director (Sacred Areas)

Mr. R.M.D.D. Rajapaksha, Chief Accountant

Mr. J.M.K.D. Jayasekara, Assistant Secretary (Development)

Ms. R.A.N. Priyadarshani, Assistant Director (Planning)
 Ms. G.N. Munaweera, Chief Internal Accountant
 Mr. Nimal Kotawelagedara, Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs, Department of Buddhist Affairs
 Ms. H.N. Kumari, Commissioner of Buddhist Affairs
 Mr. J.P.N.C. Jayakodi, Chief Accountant
 Mr. G. Chandrasena, Chief Internal Accountant
 Mr. R.M.N.K.S. Kanchana, Assistant Commissioner
 Ms. L.H.B. Iroshini, Assistant Commissioner (Admin.)

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 101 and 201 of the Ministry of Buddhasasana

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	2,018,144	3,022,813	1,462,955
Recurrent Expenditure	1,264,888	2,000,256	711,645
Capital Expenditure	753,256	1,022,557	751,310
101 - Minister of Buddhasasana			
Total Expenditure	871,718	1,679,468	903,970
Recurrent Expenditure	162,732	712,361	207,360
Capital Expenditure	708,986	967,107	696,610
201 - Department of Buddhist Affairs			
Total Expenditure	1,146,426	1,343,345	558,985
Recurrent Expenditure	1,102,156	1,287,895	504,285
Capital Expenditure	44,270	55,450	54,700

Mr. Chandraprema Gamage, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana made a presentation on the performance for the year 2017 and the target plan for the year 2018. He stated that reports on physical and financial progress were still being received from Divisional Secretariats and the similar plan had been scheduled for the year 2018 intending to do more projects than in 2017 with the allocated funds.

The Ministry had received remarkable comments and appreciations both locally and internationally for their services rendered at the 14th United Nation Vesak Day Commemoration Festival held with the participation of 72 countries, 742 international representatives and observers. He said that highest appreciation was also received for undertaking reconstruction work of a Hindu Temple in Nepal which was damaged due to recent earthquake.

Mr. Chandraprema Gamage said there are 12,333 Buddhist Temples in Sri Lanka, and around 4000 requests for financial assistance were received annually but only 500 could be considered. The Ministry could assist only 60 out of 108 sacred sites in the country next year.

In replying to the query made by the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne as to what

progress had been achieved in utilizing funds received in the year 2017, Mr. Chandraprema Gamage, Secretary to the Ministry said that under Capital Programmes they have achieved 70% up to now and that would be 95% at the end of the year 2017. Further Mr. Gamage stated that more provisions were allocated to Kurunegala District for the year 2018, since the next State Vesak Commemoration Festival was scheduled to be held in Kurunagala.

The Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne enquired the progress of construction of the Vidyalankara International Buddhist Conference Hall. The Secretary to the Ministry replied that initially one hall will be completed fully and available for use out of the several halls under construction. Both the Hon. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Minister of Buddhasasana and the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, Chairman of the Committee were of the view that it would be better if this Conference Hall could be managed under the Ministry of Buddhasasana. Mr. Chandraprema Gamage, Secretary to the Ministry stated that Cabinet of Ministers approval needs to be obtained for this purpose. The Committee decided to include this recommendation in its report to Parliament.

In replying to a question raised by the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne regarding the sacred sites which are under the Urban Development Authority, Mr. Chandraprema Gamage explained that due to the reasons that provisions are provided under the Ministry while technical experts and plans are from the Urban Development Authority, they experienced many difficulties and now Urban Development Authority is suggesting to amend the relevant Gazettes accordingly.

The Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne enquired about the ancient temples that is being destroyed by certain parties and Mr. Nimal Kotawelagedara, Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs stated that they were planning to get the services of volunteer officers, after giving a training.

The Hon. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Minister of Buddhasasana directed the Secretary to the Ministry and the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs to submit a report regarding the issues they faced. The Hon. Minister also directed the Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs to inform all the Members about the job description of the 'Buddhist Affairs Coordinators' who were attached to the Divisional Secretariat. **(Appendix V)**

The Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne explained that there is a new global trend to study Buddhism and the Ministry needs to look into that requirement as well.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 101 and 201 of the Ministry of Buddhasasana.

The Committee was at 3.00 p.m. adjourned till 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 23 November 2017.

Sgd/Tikiri K. Jayahtilake
Secretary to the Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES
SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE YEAR 2018**

Thursday, 23 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Officials present from the General Treasury:

Ms. D.S.M Costa, Director, Department of National Budget

Ms. Anna Dabarera, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Mr. R.A.L. Udayakumara, Assistant Director, Department of Public Enterprises

Officials present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. S. Yakandawala, Deputy Auditor General, Auditor General's Department

Mr. S. Sanjeeva, Superintendent of Audit, Auditor General's Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs.

Officials Present:

Mr. Esala Weerakoon, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Mrs. W. Deepthie Fernando, Additional Secretary (Administration & Procurement)

Mr. P.M. Withana, Executive Director (Tourism Task Force)

Mr. S.L.M. Hazeem, Director Development

Mr. K.M.C.K. Bandara, Chief Accountant

Mrs. D.A. Sunanda Piyaseeli, Chief Internal Auditor

Mrs. Uma Neranjanan, Director Planning

Mrs. K.D.D. Peiris, Assistant Director Planning

Mr. G.D.P. Munidasa, Assistant Director Planning

Mrs. Prasadika Basnayake, Assistant Director Planning

Mr. A.R. Gunawardana, Director, Department of Christian Religious Affairs

Ms. M.C.N. Pinto, Assistant Director

Mr. Kavan Ratnayaka, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Mr. B.M. Kiriella, Director General

Mr. Rasika Jayakody, Consultant

Mr. Sunil Dissanayake, Chairman, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management

Mr. Buddhika Hewawasam, Director General

Mr. P. Kulatunga, Deputy Director General

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Mr. Prema Cooray, Chairman- Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB)
Ms. Achini Danunnage, Senior Manager

The Committee considered the estimates for the Heads 159 and 203 - Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs.

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	548,071	2,848,533	1,024,477
Recurrent Expenditure	252,914	866,963	512,507
Capital Expenditure	295,157	1,981,570	511,970
159-Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	388,334	2,613,683	918,660
Recurrent Expenditure	115,002	689,883	438,760
Capital Expenditure	273,331	1,923,800	479,900
203-Department of Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	159,738	234,850	105,817
Recurrent Expenditure	137,912	177,080	73,747
Capital Expenditure	21,826	57,770	32,070

The Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs made a presentation on the progress achieved in 2017 and detailed program of activities for the year 2018.

The Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya expressing his dissatisfaction enquired about the targets for the year 2020 and plans to meet such targets. He pointed out that imposing too many regulations might destroy the tourism industry.

Mr. Kavan Ratnayaka, Chairman and Mr. B.M. Kiriella, Director General of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority explained their strategic plan prepared for the development of the tourism industry.

Mr. Kavan Ratnayaka stressed the necessity of the proper regulations to make the tourism industry sustainable while accepting the fact that quality and service of the industry should be developed. He stated that, in this year, protests, natural disasters (flood, dengue fever etc.) have badly affected the tourism industry. Mr. B.M. Kiriella explained about the domestic tourism promotional activities.

The Chairman explained that the image of the country had started to improve due to the good governance after the year 2015, attracting the western tourists who consider the human rights and safety conditions in the country was now favorable. He stated that the promotion activities should be done bilaterally with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also stated that in most of the countries, tourism sector was mainly in the hands of the private sector. He suggested that the Cabinet of Ministers who visit the foreign countries should attempt to promote the image of Sri Lanka and also stated that foreign Ministry and the Embassies could play a greater role in promoting the tourism industry.

In replying to the question raised by the Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri on the training in the tourism sector, Mr. Sunil Dissanayake, Chairman. Sri Lanka Institute

of Tourism and Hotel Management explained the present work and future plans of the Institute for the development of the service sector.

Responding to the question raised by the Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Mr. Prema Cooray, Chairman, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) stated that they have found a suitable candidate for the post of Director General of the Bureau and a Cabinet Paper had been submitted.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem explained the need to have another International Convention Center other than the BMICH, and proposed that the land adjacent to the Waters' Edge-Battaramulla, could be used for this purpose.

The Chairman Requested Mr. Esela Weerakoon, Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs to submit a report on the Domestic Tourism Promotion. (**Appendix VI**) The Chairman emphasized the need for developing Trincomalee as a centre for cruise liner.

The Committee, having considered the matters discussed, recommended-

- to submit a Cabinet Paper on building another International Convention Center on a land near Waters' Edge-Battaramulla;
- to launch capacity building programmes for the relevant officials at provincial level;
- to develop activities which tourists can enjoy around the tourist hot spots (night markets, theaters, adventure tourism etc.)
- to identify "Kithulgala" as tourism hot spot and to develop the area facilitating the out-bound activities for tourists
- to develop the Sri Lankan Hotel School to international level to attract the foreign students (under a public private partnership)
- to develop the Madu Church area providing necessary facilities such as water, sanitation etc.
- to promote tourism industry effectively with the corporation of private sector

The Committee approved/recommended the Estimates for the Heads 159 and 203 - Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs.

At 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Rauff Hakeem

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Other Members Present:

Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. D.S.A.Costa, Director (Finance), Department of National Budget

Ms. M.Ann Dabarera, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. S. Yakandawala, Deputy Auditor General

Ms. I.D.S.Wasantha, Audit Superintendent

The Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair.

Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Officials Present:

Mrs. R. Nadarasapillai, Secretary, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Mr. W.U.P. Premachandra, Additional Secretary (Admin/Finance)

Ms. K.D.A.Munasinghe, Director (Planning)

Ms. V.Arulraja, Director (Development)

Ms. D.D.C. Senevirathne, Chief Accountant

Mr. K.G.S.W. Weerakkodi, Chief Internal Auditor

Mr. M.U.N.Walisundara, Engineer (Consulting)

Ms. U.L. Jayasundara, Assistant Director (Housing Development)

Ms. K.Pradeepa, Assistant Director (Infrastructure)

Ms. T.D.Bangamuwa, Assistant Director (Planning)

Ms. K.K.P.Shiromi, Assistant Secretary

Ms. W.P.Bhadrakanthi, Accountant

Mr. R.B.Dayarathna, Development Officer

Ms. K.D.K.De Silva, Development Officer

Mr. L.R.Perera, Director General, Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT)

Mr. Ajith Abesekara, Director (Engineering)

Mr. R.Y.Kulathunga, Director (Finance)

Dr. Sumith Ananda, Director (Health)

Mr. M.Sritharan, Director (Finance), Prajashakthi Monitoring Unit

Mr. Muthukumar, Director (Prajashakthi)

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 140 - Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development.

Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development

Rs.'000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,284,094	4,367,886	3,748,375
Recurrent Expenditure	189,124	335,376	348,375
Capital Expenditure	1,094,970	4,032,510	3,400,000
140-Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development			
Total Expenditure	1,284,094	4,367,886	3,748,375
Recurrent Expenditure	189,124	335,376	348,375
Capital Expenditure	1,094,970	4,032,510	3,400,000

Mrs. R. Nadarasapillai, Secretary, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development made a presentation, including the profile of the Ministry and performance for the year 2017 and the target plan for the year 2018.

The Chairman of the Committee appreciated the service of Hon. Minister, Secretary and officials of the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development for performing a significant service for the people especially as a newly established Ministry since 2015.

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne enquired the Ministry about the following matters :

- 1) The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and its relationship with the government;
- 2) Reasons for which Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) were paying a levy to PHDT;
- 3) The amount of the levy paid by RPCs;
- 4) Whether there is a proper coordination of Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) with Assistant Government Agents (AGAs) of the particular area;

Referring to the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), the Secretary to the Ministry stated that it was a tripartite body established through a government Gazette notification in 1992 to coordinate activities between the Government, Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) and the people in the plantation sector. She further stated that all work performed in the estates were required to be implemented mainly through the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT).

Regarding the levy paid by RPCs, the Secretary stated that PHDT operate under the Companies Act and since they wanted to improve the living standards of the people in the plantation sector, it was established in collaboration with the RPCs.

Regarding the amount of the levy paid, the Secretary stated that the Ministry pays a management fee only.

The Secretary to the Ministry stated that there was no satisfactory coordination between the AGAs and the RPCs as the latter were running as private companies.

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development explained that PHDT currently experience considerable financial difficulties to carry out its activities and perform certain key services to the people in the plantation sector. He extended his sincere gratitude to the present Director General of PHDT as he was performing a great service with difficulties compared to his predecessors.

The Chairman of the Committee recommended to strengthen the relationship between RPCs and Assistant Government Agents (AGAs) of the areas to overcome problems faced by the plantation sector people in addition to strengthening relationship with District Coordinating Committees and Divisional Coordinating Committees.

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne too emphasized that RPCs should have a good relationship with the respective AGAs and stated the bare lands within the estates should be given to the estate workers for cultivation so that they could sell the produce to the RPCs thus benefitting both parties. The Committee recommended to submit a Cabinet Paper in this regard.

Further replying to the question raised by the Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne regarding the status of the construction of houses in Meeriyabedda and number of houses constructed in Ratnapura, Kegalle and Badulla, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that Cabinet approval had been received for the construction of houses in Meeriyabedda which was in progress and under the Green Wall Housing Programme and Disaster Housing Programme, numbers of houses constructed in Ratnapura, Kegalle and Badulla were 134 and 136, 97 and 08 and 259 and 31 respectively.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem stated that progress of "Outgrower Programme" of estates in Kandy and Matale are at satisfactory level. He recommended that necessary steps be taken to develop Tourism Industry in estate areas especially in Rangala, Kandy etc, as that would help to retain the employees in the estates since migration had become a major problem at present. That would also help to increase job opportunities for young generation.

The Chairman of the Committee stated that steps must be taken to enhance the integration between the villages and estates by providing infrastructure facilities such as improving the existing roads to have access to remotely located and isolated estates.

Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah stated that roads lying across the estates neither belong to the Government nor to the RDA. Agreeing with suggestion made by Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, the Chairman recommended that the roads in estate sector should come either under the RDA or the Provincial RDA.

The Chairman of the Committee was of the view that the hospitals in the estate sector should be taken over by the Provincial Health Authorities as only 20% of the estate hospitals were currently under them.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 140 - Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development.

At.2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe (Chairman)

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne

Hon. S. Shritharan

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. D.M. Swaminathan, Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Nalani Amarathunga, Director, Department of National Budget

Mr. R.A.T.A. Ranaweera, Deputy Director, Department of National Budget

Ms. Jayamali Gunaratne, Department of Management Services

Mr. R.A.L.Udaya Kumara, Department of Public Enterprises

Ms. Ann Dabarera, Department of National Planning

Officials Present from the Auditor General's Department:

Ms. I. Samarage, Assistant Auditor General

Ms. W.D.C. Ranjith, Superintendent of Audit

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair.

Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

Officials Present:

Eng. P.Suresh, Secretary, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

Mr. Baskaran, Additional Secretary (Admin)

Mr. P. Senthilnathanan, Additional Secretary (Development)

Mr. V. Premachanthiran, Director (Institutional Development)

Ms. P. Naamagal, Director (Development)

Ms. N.R.A.P. Ranathunga, Chief Accountant

Mr. K.G.M'B. Wicramasinghe, Director Planning (Acting)

Mr. M.M.M. Mahir, Accountant

Mr. D.M.S.K. Dissanayake, Development Officer

Mr. G.D.L.Siri Kumara, Development Officer

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

Mr. Namasivayarn Padmanathan, Chairman, Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority
 Mr. H.M.N.C. Dhanasinghe, Commissioner General (Prison), Department of Prison
 Mr. H.C.W. Kariyawasam Commissioner (Finance)
 Mr. Bandara, Director (Engineer)
 Mr. K.G. Chandrapala, Director (Planning)
 Mr. A. Uma Maheswaran, Director, Hindu Cultural Department
 Mr. M. P. Kandeephan, Accountant
 Ms. Susanthi Jayasinghe, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Based Corrections
 Major General R.M.J.A.Rathnayake, Commissioner General (Rehabilitation), Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation
 Brigadier W.V.P.W. Liyanage, Deputy Commissioner General
 Colonel J.H.O.M. Jayasooriya, Director (Admin)
 Colonel M. Issadeen, Director
 Mr. S.T. Parameswaran, Chairman, North Sea Limited
 Mr. E. Annalingam, Executive Director,
 Eng. S.M. Yaseen, Project Director, Task Force for Resettlement
 Mr. M.B. Loganathan, Commissioner General, Palmyrah Development Board
 Mr. R. Ramesh, Management Assistant,

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads - 145, 204, 232 and 326- Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs.

Rs. '000	2016	2017 Revised Budget	2018 Estimate
Total Expenditure	22,007,886	19,781,971	11,425,912
Recurrent Expenditure	6,106,453	6,892,746	8,278,162
Capital Expenditure	15,901,433	12,889,225	3,147,750
145-Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Re-settlement and Hindu Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	14,622,937	12,723,340	4,818,150
Recurrent Expenditure	932,772	1,011,265	2,676,150
Capital Expenditure	13,690,165	11,712,075	2,142,000
204-Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	226,806	244,548	249,110
Recurrent Expenditure	131,703	149,898	154,460
Capital Expenditure	95,103	94,650	94,650
232-Department of Prisons			
Total Expenditure	6,898,740	6,539,744	6,066,694
Recurrent Expenditure	4,792,326	5,467,744	5,170,594
Capital Expenditure	2,106,414	1,072,000	896,100

326-Department of Community Based Corrections

Total Expenditure	259,402	274,339	291,958
Recurrent Expenditure	249,652	263,839	276,958
Capital Expenditure	9,750	10,500	15,000

Eng. P. Suresh, Secretary, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs made a presentation on the performance for the year 2017 and the target plan for the year 2018. He explained the targets expected to achieve in 2018 providing the details on acceleration of re-settlement activities in Northern and Eastern Provinces, special projects in Northern and Eastern Provinces, National Mine Action Programmes with new and other continuation projects of the National Mine Action Centre.

The Secretary to the Ministry elaborated on the projects for construction of new houses in Northern and Eastern Provinces for refugee returnees, development of minor tanks, sanitation facilities and infrastructure facilities, livelihood assistance, improvement of education sector, providing of domestic electricity, purchasing lands for landless families, development and profit earned from Palmyrah industry during last two years and details of the North Sea limited with other development work of Hindu Culture and Mankulam Project.

Hon. D.M. Swaminathan, Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs explained about the project for renovation of partly damaged houses in Jaffna and Mullathivu highlighting the financial issues faced in the reconciliation sector. The Minister further explained about the opening up of the economic zone at Mankulam and the promoting of Palmyrah products for export market.

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake inquired about the delay in construction of prison complex in Pallekelle even after allocating Rs.160 million in the 2017 Budget. Mr. H.M.N.C. Dhanasinghe, Commissioner General of Prisons replied that the project was moving slowly as greater attention need to be paid on high security and safety requirements of the internal structures and stated that they expect to complete constructions within two years.

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan requested to look into the welfare of the women and disabled persons among the 12,000 rehabilitated persons and also to find a solution to water scarcity in Mannar which was their major problems, so that they could earn their living through agriculture. The Secretary, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs stated that the 'project of providing one tank for one village' was operating with the assistance of a technical Committee appointed for each village.

The Chairman enquired whether there is a tracking mechanism to monitor the rehabilitated group of 12000 persons and to look into their financial stability after their re-settlement in villages. Major General R.M.J.A. Rathnayake, Commissioner General (Rehabilitation) replied that one office was stationed in each district in Northern and Eastern Provinces and action had already been taken to provide water, sewing machines, cattle, chicks and other facilities for rehabilitated persons enabling

them to start self-employment or other business. He stated that they have identified houses and lands as their major requirements. As the financial provisions are inadequate for such projects, he requested to increase allocations for rehabilitation process in year 2018 and further suggested to develop the Yodawewa water project, Iranamadu tank and Mahatiththa fishing harbour project to facilitate the agro and fisheries industries.

The Chairman enquired as to what action had been taken for the welfare of war widows including that of war heroes. The Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs to submit a paper on water tank projects and a report including the details of war widows including that of war heroes of the three forces and requested to find out their current status.

The Chairman suggested to obtain the facility to get the driving license to the youths in rehabilitation camps in order to reduce their unemployment problem.

Also, The Chairman suggested to initiate the NVQ level to driving license after discussing with the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 145, 204, 232 and 326 -Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs.

Sgd/Tikiri K.Jayathilake

Secretary to the Committee

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Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure.

Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

ICTA Responses on the observations made by Chairman and Members of the
Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2017

(1) ICTA commitments including unspent bills and reasons for not utilizing allocation for 2017 (Rs 15 Bn+)

(i) Total Unpaid Bills

The invoices raised for the work completed as at 15th November 2017 (project direct cost) is Rs. 1,024.87 Million of which total outstanding bills amounts to Rs. 748.45 Million. Treasury has released Rs. 731 Million to the ICTA up to October 2017 of which Rs. 456.69 Million was utilized for meeting the operational costs of the ICTA.

In October 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved to utilize 25% of the total disbursement as operational costs.

The following table shows an age analysis of payments which are outstanding:

Table 1 : Total unpaid bills as at 15 November 2017 and number of days payment are due

Expenses Type	Amount in Rs. Mn With Number of Days Outstanding							Grand Total (Rs. Mn)
	1-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	>181	
Grand Total	144.75	94.64	81.23	43.48	107.67	10.90	265.77	748.45

(ii) Shortfall of Operational Expenditure

From January to October 2017, the actual operational cost of the ICTA is Rs.456.69 Million and billed project costs from January to October 2017 amounts to Rs. 1,024.87 Million. As per the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, ICTA is authorized to use 25% of the project disbursement as its operational expenditure. Thus, the operational expenses approved for use by ICTA for the period amounts to Rs. 256.22 creating a shortfall of Rs. 200.47 for the period.

It is forecast that Rs. 700 Million will be disbursed during November and December 2017, providing Rs. 175 million for Operational Costs. Projected operational expenses during this period is estimated to amount to Rs. 100 Million.

This intonation is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Shortfall of operational expenditure

	Expenditure items	Jan - Oct 2017 (Actual)	Nov - Dec 2017 (Estimated/ Forecast)	Total
	Total Project Costs billed	1,024.87	700.00	1,724.87
A2	Operational costs (Jan - Oct 2017)	456.69	100.00	556.69
A3	Amount approved to be used for operational costs as per the Cabinet Decision (25% of the Project Cost)	256.22	175.00	431.22
	Shortfall	200.47	(75.00)	125.47

Thus, an additional Rs. 125.47 Million is required to cover the shortfall by the end of the year 2017 and to ensure that no vendor payments due in 2017 are carried forward to 2018.

(iii) Reasons for underutilization of the allocation for 2017 (15 Bn)

Two key projects, Household Transfer Management (HTM) and the National Payment Platform (NPP) that were conceptualized and designed to provide the necessary platforms for "Digitization of Economy" did not progress as planned due to issues with stakeholder/ partners. As a consequence, funds allocated to implement these two large scale infrastructure projects, which amount to about 35% of the total allocation could not be utilized.

Further, issues related to the timely release of project and operational costs of ICTA has negatively affected delivery of several key projects. Delays in executing vendor payments affected ICTA's disbursement plans as some vendors put project activities on hold until payments for work already completed were made. Further it led to poor response to bids published by ICTA, necessitating rebidding which further lengthened the procurement cycle.

(2) Strategy for meeting the project and operational cost of ICTA in 2018 taking in to consideration ongoing commitments.;

(i) Explore possibilities of obtaining assistance of donor funding via ERD, Min Foreign Affairs, other bilateral relations

ICTA with the assistance of MTDI will discuss possibilities with the Department of External Resources Following areas have been identified for potential donor collaboration.

- a. Entrepreneurship capacity building as part of social empowerment initiatives, creating public and private partnerships in the rural areas as part of rural based technology adoption related initiatives.
- b. Promoting of technology acceptance and adoption in the government organization including introduction of video conferencing facilities to improve internal efficiency and the promoting effective service delivery process

(ii) Obtaining a loan from a local bank (esp to settle the outstanding commitments)

ICTA will not be in a position to apply for a commercial borrowing. This matter addressed by the Ministry of Finance.

(iii) Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

ICTA proposes to identify projects which could have revenue generating models and introduce such projects to selected private sector organizations for possible PPP. In this context ICTA will initiate discussions with the PPP unit of the Ministry of Finance. Some examples of viable projects to be implemented as PPP modes are the National Data Center, Video Conferencing Facility for government organizations and cross government digital document management system.

(iv) Restructuring the Operational model of the ICTA

ICTA has obtained consultancy services for developing a Business Plan for ICTA, by critically examining the electronic and other services offered by ICTA and forecasting a sustainable mediumterm cost recovering and revenue generating model for ICTA.

It is expected ICTA to expand the scope of this study to take into account the urgent need for a restructuring/ re modelling the ICTA.

(3) Take actions to submit a Cabinet Memo to - Validate/promote e-Gov policy across the entire government,

The revised e Government Policy has already been submitted to the Board and action will be taken to submit the same to the Cabinet of Ministers

(4) Ensure standardized approach in ICT applications (ref. LiFE Standards on many domains)

In the revised budget there was no funds allocated for LiFE related projects and the matter needs to be addressed as it is an area of significance in all cross-government projects.

(5) Observations on the advantages and disadvantages of direct sourcing SLT on ICTA's hardware, software, consultancy and networking requirements for development projects

ICTA implements development projects by utilizing consolidated funds and loans/credit facilities granted by donor agencies to the government. ICTA carry out procurement activities following respective Procurement Guidelines to procure inputs for these projects.

Procurement process ensures that it provides fair, equal and maximum opportunity for eligible interested parties to participate in the procurement. The competitive process gives the benefit to the government by way of maximizing economy, timeliness and quality of procurement resulting in least cost together with high quality while ensuring value for money which is the ultimate goal of public

procurement. Transparent and competitive procurement process inspire the confidence of the eligible business entities and their willingness to compete which gives direct benefit to the government.

If direct contracting and single sourcing methods are used to procure inputs for projects, it does not provide the benefits of competition in regard to quality and cost and it lacks

transparency. It may also have serious impact on eco system of the business community and an effect on compliance with local laws and regulations and international obligations. Therefore, these methods shall only be used in exceptional circumstances such as;

- (i) Natural continuation of previous work contracted on competitive selection basis.
- (ii) In an emergency situation where rapid selection is essential.
- (iii) If only one organization is qualified and has experience of exceptional worth for the particular work.
- (iv) The required product is proprietary and obtainable only from one source

ICT Agency of Sri Lanka

Chairman

Appendix IV

SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Based on the discussion held on 18th November 2017 at the Select Committee, following proposals are submitted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research as requested by the Chairman of the Select Committee

1. Expanding research capacities at Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)

ITI has engaged in a series of research projects that have direct link to the social issues such as prevention and management of Non Communicable Diseases (NDCs) including diabetes, hypertension and cardio vascular problems. At the moment a clinical study is being undertaken by the ITI in collaboration with Medical faculty of University of Colombo addressing the diabetes issue using Ceylon Cinnamon to treat diabetic and diabetic complications. 1st phase of the clinical trials were completed with positive promising results and the 2nd phase has already commenced. Once the clinical trial is completed, it is intended to develop a Ceylon Cinnamon based capsule for the treatment and management of this devastating pandemic of diabetes.

In addition, the ITI has also developed and commercialized a biscuit out of traditionally known anti-diabetic medicinal plant "*kotala himbutu*" for people who have concern on elevating blood sugar after snacks.

Further, ITI has studied 25 traditional rice varieties and proved that, four varieties namely *Masuran*, *Sudu heeneti*, *Goda heeneti* and *Dik wee* possess anti diabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer and lipid lowering properties which may be effectively used for prevention and management of NDCs in the country. Moreover, *Masuran* possesses the ability to prevent diabetic related complications by inhibiting the glycation (reaction between Glucose and Proteins in the body) process, and reversing the glycation process.

ITI is currently conducting more than 60 such studies in various fields which require additional funding and capacity development. Although the ITI has requested an amount of Rs.Mn. 1063, the allocation provided for 2018 is only Rs.Mn. 350. In such condition, it is very unlikely that ITI could continue with important research of this nature which will adversely impact the community as a whole.

Therefore, we appreciate if an additional amount of at least **Rs.Mn. 500** is allocated for ITI which will be utilized for creating required laboratory facilities that is be expanded in Malabe.

2. National capacity development in space technology and applications

Space technology has been identified as a major domain of advanced technology having a potential impact on the enhancement of overall national base of advanced technological capabilities in a variety of related disciplines of advanced technologies. This includes electronics, telecommunications, robotics, mechanical engineering, solar power systems, material technology and system integration etc. Applications of these technologies transcend an exclusive array of spheres including agriculture,

natural resource management, ocean resource management, urban development, weather and climate and disaster management etc with strong potential for enhancement of overall productivity in those spheres. Space technologies and applications hence represent a core discipline of advanced technology in which the country needs to develop its national capabilities in the process of transforming its economy into a knowledge based economy.

The major programme identified for acquisition and development of Sri Lanka's natural capabilities in this domain include, a Nano-Satellite development programme, establishment of a National Hub for receiving and distribution of earth observation satellite data, and conducting domain specific research on space technology applications. As this involves securing substantial assistance from countries with advanced technology capabilities in the subject, several MoUs have already been entered into with several countries, represented by their respective national institutions and /or national universities towards the same.

While an allocation of Rs.Mn. 332 was requested for 2018, only a total of Rs.Mn 150 (which includes only Rs.Mn. 50 for space technology capacity development) has been allocated for 2018. Therefore, the balance sum of **Rs.Mn. 180** is requested to be allocated for 2018.

3. Promotion National Engineering and Research Development Centre (NERDC) technologies in construction industry

The NERDC is the main government entity that in R & D related to construction industry. Currently a series of such technologies have been developed and being transferred through registered licensees. The Ministry has already obtained the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to construct 1000 foot bridges replacing "edanda". The Ministry has already communicated this to all District Secretaries through a circular. In addition, a presentation on the same was done for all District Secretariats at the District Secretaries' meeting.

Although, the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been obtained to implement this, no allocation was made for 2018 to undertaken this project.

The Ministry requests **Rs.Mn.300** to implement this project to build 1000 bridges over a period of three years from 2018-2020. It is envisaged to build 300 bridges per year.

4. Guaranteed long-term Funding for Research Grants

The research is based on a hypothesis and therefore research programmes and projects need flexibility to accommodate variations both positive and negative. In the mean time, the research process itself cannot be done in a strict time frame since intermediate result may direct towards another hypothesis, but almost always these are multi-year projects that on an average take about 3 years. In this context, the availability of funding should be adequate, guaranteed and uninterrupted in order to achieve expected outcome. The current practice is to allocate the minimum amount of money based on the available annual allocation, pruning major research components that would have otherwise addressed the research problem more holistically and comprehensively. Moreover, the uncertainty of the annual allocation from the consolidated fund to a Funding Agency does not guarantee the continuity

of funding. The inadequate and interrupted funding poses a special threat to the Research Students (reading for a PhD or a MPhil and who are also supported with a stipend as part of the research grant) not only because they have to delay their research degree but also they have to live on that.

In order to strengthen the R & D capacity of the country and to support the knowledge based economy the Research Funding Agencies (National Science Foundation and National Research Council) should be able to provide continuous funding for the committed period which will lead to intended outcome of that research.

Therefore, it is appreciated that a reliable and sustainable funding at least Rs. Mn. 500 each annually is provided for NSF and NRC to ensure the continuity of research funding and to achieve maximum outcome of the government research grants. Accordingly an additional allocation of **Rs. Mn. 200** m to the National Science Foundation and **Rs.Mn.200** to the National Research Council is requested to be allocated for 2018.

5. High Tech Innovation Initiatives

Developments in hi-tech is considered absolutely essential in enabling the country to bridge the trade deficit and move upward in economic development. The commodities cannot support the economy anymore and the Ministry of Science Technology and Research has developed the 'Innovating Sri Lanka' program to systematically engage in and develop hi-tech in our industry. All the research institutions are expected to partner in this program and the effort has being also extended via the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program to ensure right human resources in the future. Three of the programs under this 'Innovating Sri Lanka' initiative need more funding in the coming year as this year the preliminary work in establishing the programs have already been commenced.

(a) Nanotechnology

Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology Pvt. Limited (SLINTEC) was set up as a public-private partnership (PPP) and is overseen by the Ministry and has been in operation for a period in excess of 9 years. The share capital of SLINTEC is met through both private and public funds as 50:50 partnerships. Although the private sector contribution to share capital should be equal to public sector contribution, the actual contribution from the private sector is not in line with the said shareholding mainly as a result of investment risk in research. However, it is important to note that in addition to the share capital contribution of Rs.mn. 360 the private sector has contributed Rs.Mn. 254 towards research. SLINTEC has internally generated Rs.Mn. 193 from sale of patents and Royalty income and also Rs.Mn. 48 million from the Endowment Trust.

The main objective of establishing SLINTEC is to work in collaboration with the private sector to inspire them in R & D so as to contribute towards creating a knowledge based economy while increasing the high end export market of the country. It is important to recognize that SLINTEC has attracted companies such as

John Keels (service oriented companies) to engage in R&D and they have set up an independent R&D company and is operating at the Park. LOLC is also in discussions about setting up an operation.

SLINTEC has not been given any provision for the operational cost and all related operations costs have been met via the capital raised and through internally generated funds through contract research that are being undertaken by the SLINTEC with other companies and industry and through other means such as the interest income from the endowment fund etc. SLINTEC is one of the leading research agencies in the country with high end research equipment which incur a considerable overhead cost. Unless otherwise this expensive equipment are maintained in operating condition, the investment made by the Government will become a waste. SLINTEC continued to request operational capital from the Treasury over the past five years and unfortunately this has not been taken into account so far. The Government funding to SLINTEC currently is mainly limited to research projects that are approved by the Ministry and a minimum amount of share capital.

Current government research projects of SLINTEC includes pilot scale activity on a Natural Mineral Resource, Nano related Electronics Laboratory, carbon nano fibre, Graphene to Graphite to Graphene, nutraceuticals etc - 165Mn (New initiative).

In addition, SLINTEC is also operating a Technology Incubation Centre which caters incubation facilities to interested industries, universities and researches to develop their lab scale research to commercialization process. SLINTEC is also about to commence its activities to expand its R &D facilities with the commencement of the construction of its phase 1b (2nd hexagon) at the Nanotechnology and Science Park.

The budgetary requirement of SLINTEC for year 2018 to undertake the said priorities and an amount of Rs. Mn. 1,650 billion was requested including Rs 900 million as part of the expansion plans and Rs 250 million for share capital. However, the amount approved has only been Rs 900 million.

Thus, the Ministry would appreciate if an additional sum of **Rs 400 million** is allocated to address the above concerns.

(b) Establishment of proposed Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Innovation Park

In February 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved with a funding commitment of LKR 6.85 Billion, allocating 100 Ac for the innovation park adjacent to Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC), Homagama Pitipana. The setting up of a biotech complex, Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology (SLIBTEC) as a state of the art centralized one stop shop for biotech research and innovation for economic development and to improve the quality of life of the Sri Lankan people was approved by the National Planning Department in May 2017. It is to be co-located with within the proposed Sri Lanka Hi-tech Innovation Park at Pitipana, Homagama to complement with SLINTEC. The Ministry of Science Technology and Research (MoSTR) has already commissioned a local architectural firm to design the SLIBTEC building via a cabinet approval, and had procured Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB) to manage the Project. Local Biotech experts in collaboration with

expatriate biotech experts have finalized the building design which is scheduled to begin construction by January 2018. In addition the SLIBTEC has been recognized by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to become a Regional Research Centre for South Asia which is going to obtain its first regional research facility for Sri Lanka. With this initiative it is expected to double the present employment potential, triple industrial output and quadruple exports for biotech sector to contribute to increase the total hi-tech exports from Sri Lanka to 10% by 2020. Considering the above facts for economic development for Sri Lanka it is strongly recommended that LKR 3.85 billion for biotechnology development is important at this phase of development during 2018.

The Hi-tech innovation park too needs allocations for the completion of service provisions as industry is actually ready to start moving in once the basic preliminaries of setting up of the Hi-tech innovation park with a Park Management Company is over. As such provisions to complete the process is requested.

Thus, the Ministry would appreciate if an additional sum of **Rs Mn.750** is allocated to establish the proposed SLIBTEC and Innovation Park.

(c) National Science Centre

National Science Centre (NSC) is the apex investment planned under the informal science education aspect of Innovating Sri Lanka. The main objective of this initiative is to inspire the public in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) thereby creating a scientifically literate society and leading towards an innovation led knowledge economy. Currently, the land has been allocated to establish the proposed NSC. The establishment phase is to be completed within 2 years and the overall estimate is RsBn.2.5.

In commencing this innovative and inspiring project, Ministry would appreciate to have an additional amount of **Rs.Mn. 260** for 2018 and the remaining amount for 2019.

(d) Mechatronics enabled Economic development Initiative (MEDI)

Economies grow rapidly by having Mechatronics enabled Product Design Engineering (PDE) companies who design and certify products to international standards so that they have global market appeal. Honda, Ford, Boeing etc. are such Mechatronics Product Design Engineering companies. They use established technologies, materials, and components to bring products to the market. Such PDE companies have minimum R & D component, hence associated risk of failure is low. Since, there are only a few companies in Sri Lanka such as, Lanka Transformers and Jinesena, financial and other support from the state toward forming such companies is a pre requisite.

In recognizing this, an amount of Rs.Mn. 500 has already been allocated by the Government through the budget speech 2017 to establish a Loan scheme for Product Design Engineering entrepreneurs that have been renamed as Mechatronics Enabled Economic Development Initiative (MEDI). The main objectives of this Initiative are to support mechatronic enabled PDEs to develop and certify their products and to create a set of local Hi-Tech manufactures and a value chain for licensed products.

In achieving this objective, it is intended to support mechatronics based PDEs in way of providing a Long-Term Loan Facility (LTLF) and shared services Standards Training, Prototyping and Test Facility (SPTF) so as to compete globally.

Cabinet approval has already been obtained to implement the LTLF via a Bank for which the Ministry has already taken action to select a suitable Bank. In implementing the LTLF, there is a need for a seed capital of at least Rs. 1 billion to continue with the facility until a revolving fund is created over a period of time. SPTF component will be implemented by the National Engineering and Research Development Centre (NERDC) with close University linkages. It is expected to rapidly move into gain economic benefits in this program and be an eye opener where design innovations are rapidly converted into market opportunities.

Therefore, the Ministry requires an amount of additional **Rs.Mn. 500** to maintain the one billion accounts at the bank.

6. Promotion of basic and fundamental research

National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS) is the main state entity engaged in undertaking basic and fundamental research. The NIFS also provides research opportunities for undergraduates and postgraduates of universities to undertake their research project with available research laboratories. Currently more than 60 researches are ongoing in the field of waste management, alternative energy, nanotechnology, biotechnology etc. However, the fund allocated to NIFS is very limited although there is a huge potential for basic and fundamental research.

Since fundamental and basic research leads towards attractive applied and developmental research, it is important that country supports a good platform of basic and fundamental research.

Therefore, it is expected the NIFS is provided with additional amount of **Rs.Mn. 80** for 2018.

7. Dissemination and publicity of research findings

It is important that the Ministry keep the stakeholders including general public aware on the results and findings of the research undertaken by the research institutes so as to justify the investment made on the R & D. Although, the research community is aware on this, through publications, patents and various other means, general public, investors and potential user community are largely unaware of research capacity of institutes, research products and their potential applications. This calls for significant publicity through mass media particularly television. Since this involves significant expenditure which cannot be accommodated within the allocation that has already been made for identified programmes, the Select Committee agreed to consider allocation additional funding for publicity purposes.

Therefore, **Rs.Mn. 25** is requested for the Ministry to undertake publicity related activities.

It is also highly requested that the allocated funding for the Ministry and Institutes for 2017 be released immediately so as to complete the projects that are already ongoing.

INVESTMENT SUMMARY FOR 2018

Name of the Initiative/project	Immediate imprest needed for 2017 (Rs.Mn)	Requested allocation for 2018 (Rs.Mn.)	Approved estimates for 2018 (Rs.Mn.)	Minimum additional allocation needed (Rs.Mn.)
Expanding research capacities at Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)	200.0	1064.0	350.0	500.0
National capacity development in space technology and applications	70.0	230.0	50.0	180.0
Nanotechnology	200.0	1670.0	950.0	400.0
Promotion National Engineering and Research Development Centre (NERDC) technologies in construction industry	0.0	300.0	0.0	300.0
National Science Centre	200.0	500.0	240.0	260.0
Biotechnology	92.0	1350.0	400.0	750.0
Mechatronics enabled Economic development Initiative (MEDI)	500.0	1500.0	425.0	500.0
Guaranteed long term funding for research grants	70.0	1900.0	500.0	400.0
Promotion of basic and fundamental research	62.0	268.0	120.0	80.0
Dissemination and publicity of research findings	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0
Total	1394.0	8782.0	3060.0	3395.0

බුද්ධශාසන අමාත්‍යාංශය

2017.11.18 දින 2018 අයවැය ඇස්තමේන්තු වියදම් පිළිබඳ පාර්ලිමේන්තු තේරීම් කමිටුවේදී කරන ලද විමසීම් සඳහා තොරතුරු ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

<p>01. උතුරු හා නැගෙනහිර පළාත් වල බෞද්ධ පුරාවිද්‍යා ස්ථාන ආරක්ෂා කිරීම සම්බන්ධව කරුණු විමසීම</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> පුරාවිද්‍යා සිද්ධස්ථාන බෞද්ධකටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව මගින් සංරක්ෂණය කර සංවර්ධනය කිරීමේදී එම සිද්ධස්ථාන පුරාවිද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අයත් වීම නිසා ගැටළු පැන නගින බැවින් එම ගැටළු අවම කර ගැනීම සඳහා බෞද්ධ කටයුතු කොමසාරිස් ජනරාල්, පුරාවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල්, සංස්කෘතික ත්‍රිකෝණයේ අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් යන ප්‍රධානීන්ගෙන් යුත් කමිටුවක් පත් කරන ලෙසත් එම කමිටුව මගින් එම සිද්ධස්ථාන සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය ඉදිරි කටයුතු කරන ලෙස ලබා දුන් උපදෙස් පරිදි එම කමිටුව රැස්වීම සඳහාත් උතුරු නැගෙනහිර බෞද්ධ පුරාවිද්‍යා සිද්ධස්ථාන සංරක්ෂණය කර සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙනුත් ගරු අමාත්‍යතුමා දැනුවත් කර උපදෙස් ඉල්ලා ඇත.
<p>02. දිස්ත්‍රික්ක හා ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමින් රාජකාරි කටයුතු වල නිරතව සිටින බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක නිලධාරීන්ගේ තොරතුරු</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> බෞද්ධ කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අයත් බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක, සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී, සංවර්ධන සහකාර, ව්‍යාපෘති නිලධාරීන් සහ ගිණුම් සහකාර යන තනතුරු සඳහා බඳවාගෙන ඇති ආශ්‍රිත නිලධාරී සේවයේ තනතුරු වලට අයත් නිලධාරීන් සංඛ්‍යාව 644 කි. රාජකාරි අවශ්‍යතාවය මත එම නිලධාරීන් කාර්යාල සහ ක්ෂේත්‍ර රාජකාරි සඳහා එක් එක් කාර්යාල සඳහා අනුයුක්ත කර ඇත. අනුයුක්ත කරන ලද නිලධාරීන් සංඛ්‍යාවන් පහතින් දක්වා ඇත. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලයට - 50 ✓ මහනුවර ප්‍රාදේශීය කාර්යාලය - 05 ✓ රත්නපුර ප්‍රාදේශීය කාර්යාලය - 03 ✓ දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම් කාර්යාල සඳහා අනුයුක්ත - 42 ✓ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාල සඳහා අනුයුක්ත - 544 බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක නිලධාරීන්ගේ රැකියා විස්තර ඇමුණුම 1 සිට 3 දක්වා අමුණා ඇත.

බුද්ධශාසන අමාත්‍යාංශය

2017. 11.18 දින සාකච්ඡා කරන ලද පහත කරුණු සම්බන්ධයෙන් බෞද්ධ කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව විසින් ගන්නා ලද ක්‍රියාමාර්ග හා අදාල වාර්තා :

- 1 පුරාවිද්‍යා සිද්ධස්ථාන සංරක්ෂණය සඳහා යෝජිත කමිටුව පත් කිරීම සඳහා ක්‍රියාකිරීම
- 2 දිස්ත්‍රික්ක හා ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමේ රාජකාරි කටයුතු වල නිරතව සිටින බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක නිලධාරීන්ගේ තොරතුරු

දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්/ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාල වල සේවයේ නියුතු බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක/සංවර්ධන සහකාර බෞද්ධ කටයුතු පිළිබඳ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අනුයුක්ත සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී වෙත පැවරී ඇති රාජකාරි

01. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල කටයුතු
 - i. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල රැස්වීම පැවැත්වීම සංවිධානය කිරීම සඳහා ලේඛකාධිකාරී ස්වාමීන්වහන්සේට සහාය වීම
 - ii. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල වාර්තා සකස්කිරීම සඳහා සහාය වීම
 - iii. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල ස්වාමීන්වහන්සේලා, ගිහි පින්වතුන් සහ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් ඇතුළු රාජ්‍ය නිලධාරීන් අතර සම්බන්ධීකරණ කටයුතු
 - iv. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල මගින් සංවිධානය කරන විවිධ වැඩසටහන් සංවිධානය හා පැවැත්වීමට සහාය වීම
 - v. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල කාර්යාලය පවත්වාගෙන යාමට සහාය වීම සහ එම කාර්යාලය තම රාජකාරි කාර්යාලය වශයෙන් පවත්වාගෙන යාම
 - vi. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල ලිපි කටයුතු කරගෙන යාමට සහාය වීම
 - vii. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල හා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව අතර මනා සම්බන්ධීකරණයක් පවත්වාගෙන යාම
 - viii. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල මගින් තීරණය කරනු ලබන හා සම්මත කරනු ලබන යෝජනා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට සහාය වීම
 - ix. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩලයට රජය මගින් ලබාදෙනු ලබන උපකරණ හා භාණ්ඩ පිළිබඳ භාරකාරත්වය දැරීම
 - x. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල සාමාජික නාම ලේඛනය යාවත්කාලීනව පවත්වාගෙන යාම
 - xi. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල අරමුදල සංවර්ධනය හා එහි කටයුතු සඳහා සහාය වීම
02. දහම් පාසල් අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු
 - i. දහම් පාසල් බෞද්ධ කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම
 - ii. දහම් පාසල් කළමනාකරණය සහ පරිපාලනය පිළිබඳව අවශ්‍ය උපදෙස් ප්‍රධානාචාර්ය වරුන්ට ලබා දීම
 - iii. සෑම දහම් පාසලක්ම දෙමසකට වරක්වත් පෞද්ගලිකව අධීක්ෂණය කිරීම
 - iv. දහම් පාසල සංවර්ධන සමිති ක්‍රියාත්මක කරවීම හා ලියාපදිංචි කරවීම
 - v. දහම් පාසල් ගුරුවරුන් ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම, හැඳුනුම්පත් නිකුත් කිරීම සහ පත්වීම් ලිපි නිකුත් කිරීම
 - vi. දහම් පාසල් ගුරුවරුන් පිළිබඳව අධීක්ෂණ කටයුතු හා ඔවුන්ගේ බඳවා ගැනීම්, සේවයෙන් ඉවත් කිරීම් පිළිබඳව සොයා බලා ලේඛකාධිකාරී ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේට සහ ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලයට වාර්තා ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම
 - vii. දහම් පාසල් ගුරු ශිෂ්‍ය ලේඛන හා අදාළ වෙනත් දත්ත ලබා ගැනීම පිළිබඳව අධීක්ෂණය කිරීම
 - viii. දහම් පාසල් පෙල පොත්, ගුරු නිල ඇඳුම් නිකුත් කිරීම පිළිබඳව සොයා බලා අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු කිරීම හා ඒ සඳහා අවශ්‍ය දත්ත ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලයට විධිමත් පරිදි ලබාදීම

Report of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2018

- ix. දහම් පාසල් ශිෂ්‍ය සංවිධාන, ගුරු සංවිධාන පිහිටුවීම, ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම හා ඒවා මූලික අරමුණු කෙරෙහි යොමුකරවීම
 - x. දහම් පාසල සහ ගමේ ශිෂ්‍ය සමූහය අතර මනා සම්බන්ධතාවයක් ගොඩනැගීමට ක්‍රියා කිරීම
 - xi. දහම් පාසල් ගුරු පුහුණු, සම්මන්ත්‍රණ, වැඩමුළු ආදිය සංවිධානය කිරීම
 - xii. දහම් පාසල් දින උත්සව කටයුතු සහ සමස්ත ලංකා දහම් පාසල් තරඟාවලියට අදාළ කටයුතු ප්‍රාදේශීය හා දිස්ත්‍රික් මට්ටමින් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම
- 03 ගම හා පන්සල අතර සම්බන්ධතාවය වැඩිදියුණු කරමින් පන්සල ගමේ කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය බවට පත් කිරීම සඳහා ක්‍රියා කිරීම**
- i. ගමේ තොරතුරු රැස් කර ගැනීම සඳහා ක්‍රියා කිරීම
 - ii. ගමේ පොදු වැඩ සංවිධානය සඳහා බෞද්ධ ස්වේච්ඡා සංවිධාන හා ශිෂ්‍ය සමිති උනන්දු කිරීම
 - iii. ග්‍රාමීය සංවර්ධනය වැනි කටයුතු වල දී බෞද්ධ ඉගැන්වීම් වලට අනුව කටයුතු කිරීමට පුරුදු පුහුණු කරවීම
 - iv. ගැමි ජීවන රටාව බෞද්ධ ආගමික සිරිත් විරිත් වලට අනුකූලව හැඩගැස්වීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය වැඩ සටහන් ගම් මට්ටමින් සංවිධානය කිරීම හා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම
- 04. විහාරස්ථාන හා හික්ෂුන්වහන්සේලා සම්බන්ධ කටයුතු**
- i. විහාරස්ථාන බෞද්ධ කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ ලියාපදිංචි කිරීමට අදාළ කටයුතු
 - ii. දායක සහ පිහිටුවීම හා ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම පිළිබඳ කටයුතු
 - iii. කුලභන සමිති පිහිටුවීම හා ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම පිළිබඳ කටයුතු
 - iv. සාමණේර හා උපසම්පදා හික්ෂුන්වහන්සේලා බෞද්ධ විහාර හා දේවාලගම් පනතේ විධි විධිවිධාන ප්‍රකාරව ලියාපදිංචි කිරීමට අදාළ කටයුතු
 - v. හික්ෂු හැඳුනුමින් නිකුත් කිරීමට අදාළ කටයුතු
 - vi. විහාරය විහාරස්ථාන සතු දේපල වල සංවර්ධනය හා ආරක්ෂාව පිළිබඳ කටයුතු
 - vii. හික්ෂු අධ්‍යාපනයට අදාළ කටයුතු
 - viii. හික්ෂුන් වහන්සේලා අතර සමගීය හා සුභදත්වය වර්ධනය කිරීමට අදාළ වන වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම
 - ix. විහාරස්ථානයක ආධාර හා සිව්පස ආධාර ලබාදීමට අදාළ කටයුතු
 - x. රෝගී හික්ෂුන් වහන්සේලා පිළිබඳව සෞඛ්‍ය බලා කටයුතු කිරීම
 - xi. විහාරස්ථානයන්හි සිදුකරන විවිධ උත්සව කටයුතු වලට සහය වීම, සහභාගී වීම
- 05. වෙනත් බෞද්ධ ආගමික කටයුතු**
- i. බෞද්ධ ස්වේච්ඡා සංවිධාන ලියාපදිංචි කිරීම් හා ඒවායේ ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වය පිළිබඳව සෞඛ්‍ය බැලීම
 - ii. ප්‍රාදේශීය සංවර්ධන සංවිධානය කෙරෙන උත්සව වලට සහය වීම හා සහභාගීවීම බෞද්ධාගමික ජාතික උත්සව සංවිධානය කිරීම් සඳහා ජනතාව උනන්දු කිරීම් (වෙසක්, පොසොන්, ඇසළ වැනි උත්සව)
 - iii. 1931 අංක 19 දරණ විහාර හා දේවාලගම් පනතට අයත් වන දේවාලයන්හි හා විහාරස්ථානවල කටයුතු සඳහා සහායදීම

- iv. විහාර දේවාලගම් පනතට අයත් නොවන පිටිසරබද පිහිටි මහජනතාව වැදුම් පිදුම් කරන දේවාල හා පූජනීය ස්ථාන පිළිබඳ සොයා බලා අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු කිරීම.
- v. බෞද්ධ පෙර පාසල් පිහිටීම හා ඒවායේ කටයුතු අධීක්ෂණය කිරීම .
- vi. පාලි භාෂා පුවර්ධන වැඩසටහන් යටතේ පිහිටුවා ඇති ඉගැනීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථාන පරිපාලනය හා මෙහෙයවීම.
- vii. දහම් සරසවිය වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම සඳහා ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමින් අවශ්‍ය කටයුතු සිදු කිරීම.
- viii. බෞද්ධ කලා ශිල්ප නගාසිටුවීම සඳහා වන කටයුතු.

06. සම්බන්ධීකරණ කටයුතු

දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම් කාර්යාලය ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාලය හා වෙනත් දිස්ත්‍රික්ක හා ප්‍රාදේශීය මට්ටමේ රාජ්‍ය ආයතන සමඟ මනා සම්බන්ධතාවයක් ගොඩනගාගැනීම

දහම් පාසල් පෙළ පොත් ගුරු නිල් ඇඳුම හා වෙනත් රජයේ ප්‍රදානයන් අදාළ ආයතනවලට ලබාදීම ලබාදීමේ කටයුතු සම්බන්ධයෙන් සම්බන්ධීකරණය කිරීම

07. රාජකාරිමය වගකීම හා පැවරීම්

- i. ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩලයේ ගරු සභාපති හා ලේඛකාධිකාරී ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේලා විසින් පවරනු ලැබිය හැකි ප්‍රදේශයේ බෞද්ධාගමික කටයුතු පිළිබඳ ක්‍රියා කිරීම.
- ii. දිස්ත්‍රික් ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩලයේ ගරු සභාපති හා ලේඛකාධිකාරී ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේලා විසින් දිස්ත්‍රික් ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල වලට අදාළව පැවරිය හැකි වෙනත් කටයුතු
- iii. නියෝජ්‍ය බෞද්ධ කටයුතු කොමසාරිස් වශයෙන් ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් විසින් හා අතිරේක බෞද්ධ කටයුතු කොමසාරිස් වශයෙන් දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්වරුන් විසින් පැවරි හැකි වෙනත් රාජකාරී කටයුතු
- iv. බෞද්ධ කටයුතු කොමසාරිස් ජනරාල් විසින් පවරනු ලබන වෙනත් රාජකාරී කටයුතු ඉටුකිරීම
- v. බුද්ධ ශාසන හා ආගමික කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ලේකම් විසින් වරින් වර නිකුත් කරනු ලබන උපදෙස් අනුව තොරතුරු එක්රැස් කිරීම හා ඒවා ලබාදීම
- vi. බෞද්ධ ජනතාව, සිද්ධස්ථාන හා ආනුෂංගික කටයුතු පිළිබඳව සමාලෝචන හා පර්යේෂන කටයුතු
- vii. මහා භාරකාරතැන විසින් පාලනය කරනු ලබන භාරවලට අයත් දේපල පිළිබඳව තොරතුරු වාර්තා සැපයීම
- viii. රජයට පවරා ගන්නා ලද විහාර දේවාලගම් ඉඩම් යටතේ මහා භාරකාර තැනට ලැබිය යුතු වන්දි මුදල් පිළිබඳව සම්බන්ධීකරණ කටයුතු හා අවශ්‍ය තොරතුරු වාර්තා සැපයීම

දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්/ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාල වල සේවයේ නියුතු බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක/ සංවර්ධන සහකාර සහ බෞද්ධ කටයුතු පිළිබඳ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අනුයුක්ත සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී ස්වාමීන්වහන්සේලා /සිල් මෑණියන් වහන්සේලා වෙත පැවරී ඇති රාජකාරී

දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අනුයුක්තව බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක සංවර්ධන සහකාර සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී තනතුරට පත්කරන ලද ඔබ වහන්සේට මෙම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අදාල රාජකාරී ඉටු කිරීම සඳහා වන රාජකාරී ලැයිස්තුව අමතරව පහත ව්‍යාපෘති ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම සඳහා රාජකාරී පවරමි.

- සාරධර්ම ප්‍රවර්ධනය
- ගම හා පන්සල අතර සම්බන්ධතාවය ශක්තිමත් කිරීම
- අධ්‍යාධ්‍යාත්මික සංවර්ධනයකින් යුතු ශක්තිමත් සමාජයක් බිහිකිරීම
- උපදේශනය හා පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය
- කලාව හා සහ සාහිත්‍යය රසාස්වාදය
- බෞද්ධ අධ්‍යාපන ප්‍රවර්ධනය
- මන්ද්‍රව්‍ය නිවාරණය
- බෞද්ධ ජීවන ක්‍රමයකට හුරු කරවීම
- ආගමික සහජීවනය

02. වර්තමාන බෞද්ධ සමාජය මුහුණ දී සිටින බරපතල සමාජ ගැටලු කිහිපයකට විසඳුම් ලබාදීම අරමුණු කරගෙන උක්ත විෂයයන් කෙරෙහි බෞද්ධ කටයුතු පිළිබඳ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ විශේෂ අවධානය යොමුකර ඇත. ඒ අනුව එම මාතෘකාවන්ට අදාල සමාජ ගැටලුවලට විසඳුම් ලැබෙන පරිදි ව්‍යාපෘති නිර්මාණශීලීව හැඳින්වෙන, හැකිතාක් දුරට ප්‍රදේශයේ සම්පත් යොදාගෙන ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ යුතුයි

03. විහාරස්ථ ශාසනාරක්ෂක මණ්ඩල හරහා විහාරස්ථානය කේන්ද්‍ර කරගනිමින් ගම පාසල රාජ්‍ය හා රාජ්‍ය නොවන සියලු ආයතන ඒකාබද්ධ කරගෙන ව්‍යාපෘති හඳුනාගැනීම, සැලසුම් කිරීම හා ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම කලයුතුය.

04. මේ සඳහා බෞද්ධ කටයුතු සමායෝජක නිලධාරීන්/ සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී/ සංවර්ධන සහකාර නිලධාරීන්ගේ සහාය ලබාගත හැකිය

Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs
Domestic Tourism Activities by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
“Adaraneeya Sri Lanka” (lovingly Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has launched a domestic tourism development strategy called “Adaraneeya Sri Lanka (Lovingly Sri Lanka) with the tagline of Dakimu, Windimu & Rakimu (See, Feel & Protect). The overall objective of the strategy is to develop the Domestic tourism sector in line with sustainability principles, which encourage adopting and implementation of practices which lead to economic vitality, environmental responsibility and socio-cultural responsibility. Furthermore, it has been identified the importance of creating a responsible travel culture among Sri Lankans in which the traveler not only see, but also feel, understand, respect, protect people, places and culture. Surveys conducted by SLTDA have also emphasized the fact that environmental pollution of some of tourism hotspots is an issue in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the ultimate objective of this strategy is to preserve, protect environment, culture, heritage of the country for the future.

As a part of the overall strategy, a domestic tourism travel television programme was telecasted which was also titled as “Adaraneeya Sri Lanka” with the tagline of Dakimu, Windimu & Rakimu through the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC). The programme was telecasted from February to September 2017 which brought information on various lesser known tourist attractions in 25 districts in the country. This programme explored the nature, culture and the typical life styles and traditions of Sri Lankans in each district of the country. Adaraneeya Sri Lanka also covered and educated the audience about the native foods and clothing patterns of Sri Lankan people. Further, the amateur and professional photographers were able to participate in the photographic competition by sending their outstanding pictures which reflect the Sri Lankan travel related and life style activities of the Sri Lankan people to popularize those places among Sri Lankans. The photographic exhibition on “Adaraneeya Sri Lanka” was held during 27-28 September, 2017, in parallel to the “World Tourism Day 2017.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, in collaboration with provincial authorities, conducts various programmes to enhance the domestic tourism sector. Main objective of those programmes are as follows,

Facility Enhancement- Initiatives have been undertaken by SLTDA to develop infrastructure facilities of tourism hotspots as well as of lesser known attractions in Sri Lanka. Such activities include construction of a comfort centers, upgrading of sanitary facilities, development of model beaches, etc.

Information Enhancement- One of the key objectives of SLTDA’s domestic tourism strategy is to enhancing of access to information to the domestic traveler. In this regard, SLTDA conducts several activities including establishment museums, establishment of sign boards, conducting awareness campaigns, etc.

Community Development- According to the budget proposals of 2017, the main objective of this initiative is poverty alleviation of rural communities. In this context, SLTDA has initiated community based development projects in Kajugama and Dunhinda. The target is to increase the revenue generation of local communities.

Promoting of lesser known attractions to travelers- In order to address the carrying capacity issues and visitor management, SLTDA is in a process of promoting lesser known attractions to the local travelers. As a step, in parallel to the World Tourism Day 2017, SLTDA launched three books on lesser known attractions in Central, Southern and Western Province.

Training & development of local tourism stakeholders- SLTDA, in collaboration with local authorities conducts training programmes for the local tourism stakeholders and SME sector to enhance the capacities.

Furthermore, SLTDA manages 6 resorts in Nuwara Eliya, Bandarawela, Bentota, Anuradhapura, Pasikudah and Katharagama with the aim of facilitating the needs of local tourists.

Home Stay programme was initiated in 2011 by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) with the aim of empowering the local rural community with the expertise and capacity to become stakeholders in the Tourism sector to reap the economic benefits, by offering a room in their homes to tourists. Since its initiation, there is a favorable response from the local community. As per the guidelines of Home Stays Units approved by the Board, SLTDA is in the process of registering them under six (6) sub categories. As of November 2017, there are 367 home stay units with 1,102 rooms which have been registered with SLTDA.

Additionally, in 2009, SLTDA launched a three-wheeler scheme, 'Tourist Friendly Tuk Tuk' as a pilot project. The scheme introduced metred taxis with accepted tourist standards for the benefit of visiting tourists. In the first phase, it was launched with 50 three-wheelers. Three-wheeler drivers who fulfill SLTDA's eligibility criteria for both driver and the vehicle were given a license upon completion of their specifically designed training course. According to the budget proposals for the year 2018, it has highly concerns to streamline the tuk tuk operation in Sri Lanka. In this context, discussions are ongoing to re-launch the project.

Apart from domestic tourism development activities carried out by the SLTDA the Ministry has been executing several projects through District Secretaries and Provincial Councils with the aim to enhance tourism attractions. In the year of 2017, a total number of 55 projects at a cost of Rs. 509 Million has been implemented in 12 districts. Those activities include construction of comfort centers, recreational facilities, access roads to tourism attractions, parking facilities at attractions etc.

Ministry has provided financial assistance to train unemployed youth in the hospitality sector with collaboration of provincial councils, private hotel schools and private hotels. Ministry has also facilitated training for capacity building of tourist service providers with collaboration of Universities and Provincial Tourism Institutions.

Further, initiatives have been taken to develop community tourist villages in the Central, Northwestern, Uva, Southern, Western, Sabaragamuwa and North Central to empower local communities and create employment opportunities in rural areas.

Furthermore, steps have been taken to strengthen tourist police units to ensure safety and security of tourists.

Ministry has been working in concert with Department of National Museum, Department of Botanical Garden and Department of Zoological Gardens In order to create awareness, attract and promote tourist attractions with the print and electronic media.

Appendix VII

Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Re-settlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

PROBABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN NORTH & EAST

If under mentioned projects can be implemented, it can create adequate jobs not only to ex-combatants but also for war affected personnel.

- a. Resurrect the Giant Tank in Mannar to provide water towards Poonaryn and Wilpattu area for agriculture requirements. (Annex 'A')
- b. Develop all the Fisheries Harbours in North and East. (Annex 'B')

Annex A

**DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE BY FEEDING GIANT TANK
IN NORTHERN PROVINCE**



**PROPOSED FISHING HARBOURS & INDUSTRIAL HARBOUR
IN NORTHERN PROVINCE**

