

PROGRESS REPORT

2022 - January to September

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, PRISON AFFAIRS AND
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS**

Ministry of Justice Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

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Colombo 10

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Message from the Hon. Minister of Justice



I am truly pleased to place a congratulatory message as a token of issuing the Progress report – 2022 of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms. It is essential to establish severity of law and an independent judicial system to ensure the democracy of a country and it is a great pleasure to see all the public sector being restored under the leadership of Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe gradually deteriorated in different ways amidst the recent economic crisis. The Judicial system is now becoming a unique process by restoring and winning the trust and confidence of the general public and the international community alike. In

a successful attempt of updating different pieces of obsolete legislation, measures have been taken to amend over 150 pieces of outdated legislation in keeping with the present global context and winning the competence to pass in Parliament with a two-thirds majority of the 21st Amendment to the Constitution tabled with the objective of strengthening democracy and wiping out the corruptions, malpractices, and irregularities prevalent in the country is of great triumph achieved by all those who value democracy forever.

Arrangements are now underway to bring an Anti-Corruption Act an ewaiming at eradicating corruptions, malpractices, and irregularities prevalent in the State mechanism, and as a Minister taking the charge of the subject of Justice, I requested in Parliament to set arrangements to bring a new Constitution in keeping with the needs of the country. A top priority has now been highlighted to address the issues encountered by the civilians in the North who have suffered and are disadvantaged in the evil consequences of war that has dragged upon them for a prolonged period of over thirty years. To remedy the hurtful and desperate plight of the civilians in the North, steps have been taken to conduct mobile services covering the entire Northern Province so as to resolve their issues which among other things include citizenship applications, registration of births, marriages and deaths, applications for obtaining and altering national identity cards, disputes relating to land resettlement, etc.

It is the responsibility and the obligation of all parties to work together to avoid the resumption of such an utterly ruthless war and to heal the collapsed and broken minds to see trust and confidence among people both in the North and south at the end of the war. Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, the Office for Missing Persons, and the Office for Reparations; the Offices coming under the purview of this Ministry have now been working to accomplish this goal with the objective of enhancing unity and reconciliation among different ethnic groups, plans are underway to introduce a programme at the rural level covering the entire island. To ensure fair and equitable response for the families whose members have gone missing as a consequence of fatal war, it has been taken measures that

inter alia include acceleration of inquiries into the complaints already in receipt, awarding of compensation for victims, granting of Certificate of Absence, etc. Meanwhile, the Office for Reparations has acted to award compensation to those who have sustained damages including their properties.

As the usage of drugs have now become a serious threat to the country, steps have been taken to appoint a new Task Force to combat the trafficking, possession, dealing, and sale of drugs aiming at controlling the use and addiction. Focus has also been prioritized to bring a new Act repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act now in force. Hence, increasing the number of addicts to drugs has paved the way for an increase in the number of prison inmates leading to prison overcrowding so that a programme is being arranged to refer such drug offenders to a rehabilitation process.

Measures have also been taken to empower the Mediation Boards which were established as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to provide the general public with mutually acceptable redress and minimize the institution of cases before the courts resort to litigation to seek relief for their points of dispute. Even amidst the prevalent economic crisis in the country, necessary arrangements are now in progress to enhance the efficiency of all Departments and Institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry including the advancement of capacity building in the Government Analyst's Department.

In conclusion, I am extremely grateful to the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms including all Heads of Departments coming within its purview for their invaluable service already discharged and is discharged achieving the targets of the Ministry in the emergence of the such context of numerous impediments where Sri Lanka is now experiencing an ever worst economic crisis that has never taken place in its recorded history. I also reserve this opportunity as a token to commend the cooperation extended by all those to make the process of administration of justice more efficient and effective with utmost trust.

Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapaksha, PC
Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

Message from the Hon. State Minister



The judicial and prison system of a country is defined as a specific tool by which the degree of the societal status of the country can be measured. According to Nelson Mandela, ***“A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”*** The judicial and prison systems must be maintained with the object to build a virtuous, disciplined, and law-abiding society.

By way of introducing reforms to the obsolete judicial process while assuring the law and sovereignty and as well as affecting the application of the state-of-the-art technology to arrest the ever-inordinate delay prolonged in the judicial sector, a series of measures have now been initiated to improve coordination among judicial system and forums.

One of the key tasks entrusted with this Ministry is to streamline the rehabilitation process so as to meaningfully socialize the detainees upon serving sentence to be good, righteous, and useful citizens. In ensuring of these goals, various programmes are being planned to be implemented by the Department of Prison, the Department of Community-Based Corrections, and the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.

To relieve the burden of expenditure now fallen on the General Treasury, plans are being drawn up to set up and develop different prison workings divisions. This aims to duly provide the detainees with vocational know-how so as to become the detainees of vocationally powered and energetic groups of people at the time when they leave prison after serving the sentence. Such an effort helps to protect the family unit being a basic social mission but it also contributes to; fulfilling their food requirements through the development of agriculture, meeting supplementary expenses through income generation after the development of the industrial sectors, paves the way for discovering the possibilities of being availed for exporting the prison products to the foreign markets.

As the introduction of House Arrest, Cluster Prisons etc. which are now implemented in certain other countries, it has now been given to looking for possibilities of implementing such alternatives in the country assist to remedy prison overcrowding and controlling public expenditure, emphasis.

The prison administration is highly eased by the expeditious conclusion of pending cases before courts for a prolonged period of time, controlling of crimes operated by imprisoned criminals, and application of new technology for the security of the prisons and therefore arrangements are now in progress for updating out-dated technological appliances and methods. Further, a series of programs have already been implemented to minimize prison

overcrowding. A mechanism has also been finalized to grant special pardons through a review process mainly designed for an award of pardon.

The rehabilitation process initiated in coincidence with the above is an arrangement where it intends avoidance of re-imprisonment and curtailment of re-imprisonment for certain acts of crimes including offenses related to illegal drugs. Those offenders who are referred to the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation by the order of the court are deployed to a mental and physical rehabilitation process along with timely need vocational training which allows them an opportunity to become worthwhile citizens having the ability to reach stability economically.

Moreover, the Department of Community-Based Corrections plays an important role involving in the rehabilitation of minor offenders by way community-based correction process in respect of minor offenders which greatly buttresses the protection of the offender, his family, and his own living social environment alike. Hence actions are further in progress to popularize community-based correction processes in respect of minor offenders in the rehabilitation in predominance.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Wijeyadasa Rajapaksha, PC, Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms for his guidance given to the Ministry and its Departments for achieving rapid progress in these formidable tasks. I also thankfully remind the executive officers of the Ministry including other staff, and the Heads of Departments functioning under the Ministry purview for their inestimable service extended towards me by efficiently and effectively utilizing financial and human resources available in the Departments with utmost supervision and coordination amidst the current economic crisis in the country.

Anuradha Jayarathne
Attorney – at - Law
State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

Message from the Secretary to the Ministry



One of the key responsibilities entrusted with this Ministry includes the provision of necessary facilities to expedite the process of law reforms and realization of the administration of justice best assuring the will of the general public and the rights of the citizens in keeping with global advancement and societal needs.

The backlog of court cases drags on for many years resulting in the conclusion of a case taking a long passage of time. This impacts negatively terms of economic development in the country. In compliance with the development plan drawn up aiming at making the judicial sector more efficient in coping with the inordinate delay as described above, the following strategies have already been identified, *viz.*

- Expediting law reforms in keeping with the timely needs and in line with international standards.
- Strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms over litigation.
- Forming a system of infra-structure facilities equipped with qualitative standards enabling to bear the number of pending cases to meet the country's population.
- Applying the technology at its best for the judicial sector.
- Empowering and accelerating the Ministry's affiliated Departments that assist in the process of administration of justice.

However, the outbreak of pandemic disease which hit the whole country, and subsequent major drawbacks to the economy have restricted us from taking these strategies into effect according to the scheduled plan. The expenditure controls were followed for the projects funded by way of local currencies. Now, every attempt is being made to have the hands of the foreign aid agencies to the utmost extent ensuring the development of the judicial sector. Moreover, every means of supervision and guidance are now put in place to get the Departments coming under the purview of the Ministry to act with the greatest efficiency and productivity.

The Ministry has achieved historical progress in terms of law reforms during the year. In succeeding the sphere of law reforms this year, 12 important pieces of legislation were passed in Parliament. Further, 10 pieces of legislation have been presented in Parliament and are to be passed. These reforms include updating law reforms in keeping with the timely needs, introducing of Pre-Trial Procedure Courts and Small Claim Courts affecting structural changes in the judicial hierarchy and laws relating to the prevention of fraud and corruption.

The outstanding achievement is the 21st Amendment to the Constitution containing provisions for strengthening the Constitutional Council and the Independent Commissions. Further, activities pertaining to 20 pieces of legislation for which the policy approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has already been sought, and 07 pieces of legislation are to be given the policy approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Strengthening of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms paves the way for resolving disputes without resorting to the litigation process, thereby assisting to relieve the apparent backlog of court cases pending before courts. It is with great pleasure to note that percentage of settlement of disputes at Mediation Boards is on an upward trend. In an effort to expand the mediation process by a further step, the establishment of Special Mediation Boards relating to land disputes was published in the Gazette. Arrangements are now being processed to establish Special Mediation Boards relating to financial disputes as well. The activities of the Debt Conciliation Boards have been decentralized by way of forming Branch Boards to provide relief to those who are aggrieved and suffered as a consequence of the conditional transfer of their immovable properties to take out loans.

The enhancement of capacity building of all incidental institutions of the judicial sector is a decisive factor to speed up the realization of the process of administration of justice. During the year, the Legal Draftsman's Department drafted and submitted 196 pieces of amendments in three languages. The analytical and testing reports of the Government Analyst's Department need to be submitted as expeditiously as possible to speed up the hearing of legal proceedings. The applications for analytical and testing reports received by the Government Analyst's Department were 30,260 during the year, in response 27,569 reports have been issued. Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Department has concluded 7,012 case files during the year.

As of present, 24,000 prison inmates are in prisons and as such all measures have now been taken to manage prison overcrowding. As a remedy to relieve the situation, it becomes necessary to obtain more and more community-based correction orders, the number of such orders obtained this year consists of 5,321.

In order to establish the rule of law, it is vitally important to facilitate avenues where everyone has equal access to justice. In this endeavor, the Department of Legal Aid Sri Lanka renders a vital role that is proven by the fact that 136,224 persons have been provided with legal aid and assistance to date during this year at the Legal Aid Centres located throughout the country.

It is a great gladness to note that despite the ever-challenging circumstances in the country, the Ministry and the Departments coming within its purview have acquired such progress as enumerated above. Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to H.E the President, Hon. Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers for their cooperation to continue the judicial sector uninterrupted amidst this very difficult situation. I thankfully remind the leadership and firm guidance given by Hon. Wijeyadasa Rajapaksa, PC, Cabinet Minister for the sake of the duties of the Ministry. I am extremely grateful to Hon. Anuradha Jayarathne, Hon. State Minister for his assistance given to us to continue the affairs of the Ministry. I express my sincere gratitude to all officials including Heads of Departments and Institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry and staff of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs, and Constitutional Reforms.

Wasantha Perera

Secretary to the Ministry

Ministry of Justice Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

THE VISION

- ❖ Efficient system of administration of Justice;
- ❖ Law reform to respond to societal needs in keeping with global advancements and the aspirations of the people;

THE MISSION

- ❖ Formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes aimed at the efficient and meaningful administration of justice;
- ❖ Law reform for greater recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of the citizens.

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01. INTRODUCTION

The functions entrusted with the Ministry of justice are being changed from time to time in accordance with the revision of subjects being designated to the Ministry and as such in general the Ministry has been assigned with the following functions.

- Formulation of policies, plans and programmes in respect of the machinery for administration of justice.
- Implementation and direction of such policies, plans and programmes within the time limit agreed with the national planning authorities and within budgeted resources.
- Matters relating to the administration of justice which have not been assigned to any other Institution in terms of the Constitution.
- Implementation of reforms to the legal system taking into consideration social needs and global trends.
- Implementation of all matters systematically and efficiently in relation to overall administration, including prevention of delays in the administration of justice within the court system.
- Criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings on behalf of the government.
- Tender legal advice to the government and to all government departments.
- Drafting of legislation.
- Make recommendations to grant pardons, commutations, remissions, respites, and suspensions in relation to sentences passed on any offender.
- Formulation and implementation of an appropriate programme to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall Quazi system.
- Administration of Labour Tribunals and any other related Matters.
- Re-documentation and consolidation of laws.
- Preparation of legal glossaries.
- Publication of Law Reports.
- Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act and related activities.
- Commercial Mediation Center of Sri Lanka Act No. 44 of 2000 and related activities.
- Promotion of National Integration and Reconciliation and lasting peace within the country and formulation of a policy framework for the said purpose.
- Supervision of Departments/Institutions that come under the purview of the Ministry of Justice and all other subjects that comes under the purview of these Departments/Institutions.
- Formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes in relation to prison reforms.
- Prison administration and reforms
- Activities related to community based correction projects

Following Departments and institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry of Justice is in charge of carrying out the above functions.

1. Attorney General's Department
2. Legal Draftsman's Department
3. Law Commission of Sri Lanka
4. Department of Government Analyst
5. Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court
6. Department of Debt Conciliation Board
7. Department of Prisons
8. Community Based Correction Department
9. Rehabilitation Commissioner General's Office
10. Mediation Boards Commission
11. Office of the Secretary Labour Tribunals
12. Quazi Courts and Quazi Board of Appeal
13. Training Institute for Non Judicial Officers
14. Legal Aid Commission of Lanka
15. Superior Courts Complex Board of Management
16. Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
17. National Authority for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Crime
18. Office for National Unity and Reconciliation
19. Office of Missing Persons
20. Office for Reparations
21. Council of Legal Education

02. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The functions of the Ministry are carried out by the following divisions,

- I. Legal Division
- II. Establishment Division
- III. Planning Division
- IV. Development Division
- V. Engineering Division
- VI. Reforms Division
- VII. Prison Reforms Division
- VIII. National Integration Division
- IX. Finance Division
- X. Internal Audit Division

I. Legal Division

Amending existing laws to accordance with the international standards and taking policy discussion for creating new laws and publication and translation of law reports.

II. Establishment Division

Establishment matters of all officers of the Ministry and the Departments which are coming under the Ministry except Scheduled Public Officers appointed by the Judicial Service Commissions.

III. Planning Division

Planning Division carry out the functions related to Planning Progress review and monitoring of the projects coming under purview of the Ministry and related instructions.

IV. Development Division

This Division takes the charge of matters pertaining to departments activities and institutions coming under within the purview of the Ministry of Justice and coordination in this regard.

V. Engineering Division

The Engineering Division takes charge of Construction, Renovation and Maintenance, of Court Complexes, court buildings and Judges' Official Residences.

VI. Reforms Division

This Division has been established to efficiently and effectively overhaul the process and reforms of the Ministry of Justice and as well as the Departments and Institutions coming under its purview by way of application of information technology to achieve the objectives of the Ministry of Justice.

VII. Prison Reform Division

While undergoing a comprehensive reform of the prison administration and addressing the job-related issues of the prison officers, the Prison Affairs Division accounts for formulating, monitoring and following-up of necessary policies to streamline the rehabilitation process with the aim of reintegrating the prisoners into society as good citizens when they are released.

VIII. National Integration Division

The National Integration Division is engaged in introduction and implementation of programmes to establish solidarity and co-existence between communities and provision of necessary facilities to enable people to gain a mutual understanding of their cultural, social and religious background.

IX. Finance Division

Financial Planning, Management and Control of financial aspects of the Ministry, Department and Courts.

X. Internal Audit Division

Auditing of accounts of the Ministry, Departments and court-houses.

**03.PERFORMANCE OF THE EACH DIVISION UNDER THE
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

3.1. LEGAL DIVISION

3.1.1. Legal Reforms

a) Legislations Passed in Parliament

Title	Objective	Date of Certification by the Speaker
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, No. 2 of 2022	Introduction of Pre-trial conference to be held at the High Court and matters incidental thereto.	17.02.2022
Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines Act, No.03 of 2022	To provide for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.	17.02.2022
Judicature (Amendment) Act, No. 04 of 2022	Amendment to the section 5C of the Act, to provide for the Appointment of the Recorder Judge for Pre-trial Conferences at the High Court.	17.02.2022
Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act, No.05 of 2022	Section 88(2) amended to require that the setting aside an order or refusing to set aside the judgment entered upon default shall accompany the facts upon which it was adjudicated and specify the grounds upon which it was made.	17.02.2022
Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act, No. 17 of 2022	To expressly provide that unless in the pleadings or further pleadings the execution or the genuineness of a document or a deed, which is not a will, is specifically impeached and raised as an issue, or the Courts require such proof, it is not necessary to adduce formal proof of the execution or genuineness of the same, if such it appears to be duly attested on the face of it.	23.06.2022
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, No. 18 of 2022	To introduce provisions enabling the issuance of one certified copy of a judgment or final order of the record free of charge to the complainant and every accused of the particular case, and to authorize the Secretary to the Ministry to determine the fees applicable on certified copies.	23.06.2022
Amendment to Wills Ordinance	The meanings of the terms landed properly are extended to include a condominium parcel and any Land Parcel.	19.10.2022

Amendments to the Powers of Attorney Ordinance	The registration of a power of Attorney has been made mandatory and among other matters the period of validity of Power of Attorney has been prescribed and the procedure for cancellation or revocation thereof introduced.	19.10.2022
Amendment to the Prevention of Frauds Ordinance	This is a consequential amendment to the Notaries Ordinance and the Wills Ordinance. Execution of a Will by five witnesses without presence of a Notary Public is abolished in this amendment.	19.10.2022
Amendment to the Notaries Ordinance	To include provisions ensuring that all parties to a deed should affix their finger impressions to such deed and among other matters to increase the fines impose under the act.	19.10.2022
Amendment to the Registration of Documents Ordinance	To design and limit the persons who can file a caveat wherever an instrument affecting the land is presented the Registrar has to inform the Parties whose name and addresses had been given.	19.10.2022
22 nd Amendment to the Constitution	Introduces several amendments <i>inter alia</i> to reintroduce the Constitutional Council, to ensure the independency of the independent commissions and to strengthen them, to reintroduce the audit service commission and national procurement commission.	31.10.2022

b) Presented in Parliament and yet to be passed

Title	Objective	Present Status
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill- (Death Sentence on Minors)	To amend section 281 of the Act to remove the ambiguity by introducing express provisions that a sentence of death shall not be pronounced on or recorded against any person who, in the opinion of the Court, was under the age of eighteen years at the time he committed the offence.	Parliamentary Ministerial Consultative Committee Meeting held on 06.07.2022
Amendment to Children and Young Persons Ordinance	The amendment introduces the definition of "Child" as a person under the age of 18 years old (the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and provides for the establishment of a primary section and a secondary section at the approved or certified schools for children who have not attained the age of 15 years and children who have attained the age of 15 years but not reached 18 years respectively.	Parliamentary Ministerial Consultative Committee Meeting held on 22.09.2022
Amendment to the Dangerous Animals Ordinance	To amend certain provisions of the Dangerous Animals Ordinance. To include provisions for the destruction of dangerous animals and to increase the sum specified as the bond in the amendment.	-do-

Small Claims Court Bill	To introduce specialized courts with special procedure to consider disputes below 1.5 Million Rupees, time-limited procedures, and facilitating parties to pursue settlement.	-do-
Amendment to Judicature Act	Provide for the establishment of the specialized Small Claims Courts and other amendments incidental there to.	-do-
Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101)(Revoking Chapter LXVI) \	To repeal Chapter LXVI of the Civil Procedure Code containing the provisions regarding Small Claims Court as a separate special law providing the procedure for the Small Claims Courts is to be enacted.	-do-
Amendment to the High Court of the Provinces (Special Provisions) Act No.19 of 1990	To recognize the appellate and revisionary jurisdiction of the High Court established by Article 154P of the Constitution for a Province, in respect of judgments, decrees and orders delivered and made by Small Claims Courts within such Province, and the appellate jurisdiction for the correction of all errors in fact or in law, which shall be committed by any such Small Claims Courts.	-do-
Amendment to the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance	To amend the provisions on bail, disposal of substances, Group B of Part I and Part III of Third Schedule of the said Ordinance and to introduce new provisions on the period of detention, voluntary admission to medical treatment for de-addiction and rehabilitation, probation for young offenders under eighteen years of age, prima facie evidential value on the Government Analyst's Report, and factual value to the quantitative weight of substances of which the gross weight is two or less than two grams.	Bill is challenged before the Supreme Court.
Bill for the establishment of a Bureau for Rehabilitation	For the establishment of Bureau of Rehabilitation to manage treatment and rehabilitation centers for ex-combatant, members of the extreme violent groups and drug dependents and to regularize the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.	Bill is challenged before the Supreme Court.
Amendment to the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act	Minimum age for marriage to be made 18 years by which the part II of the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act that requires parental consent for the marriage of minor to be repealed.	Ready to be sent.

c) **Policy Approval of the Cabinet is received and not yet finalized**

Title	Objective	Present Status
Child Protection and Justice Bill	To ensure the best interest of the child in the judicial process and to comply with international norms pertaining to children in contact with the Law.	Awaiting a Report from the Probation Officers.
Introduction of a new Law on Contempt of Court	To clearly specify the offence of contempt of court and the procedure to be followed when the offence is committed and so on to ensure that the judiciary is subject to robust democratic discourse.	Awaiting the revised Draft from the Legal Draftsman incorporating the observations of this Ministry.
Amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure Act (Section 323(5))	To consider the period of time spent in confinement as part of the sentence for appeals.	Awaiting Preliminary Draft form the Legal Draftsman.
Anti-Corruption Bill	To introduce a new law to implement a strong legal framework to minimize bribery and corruption	Committee is appointed in making recommendation to develop the law.
Introduction of a New Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Proceedings Bill	To repeal the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance No.14 of 1921 and introduce a new law relating to enforcement of judgments of foreign jurisdictions in line with the new developments in this regard on the basis of the model law developed by the Advisory Committee to review the Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Ordinance.	Awaiting the Certificate of Constitutionality from the Attorney-General's Department
Proceeds of Crime Bill	To intend to prohibit benefiting from criminal activity to provide the necessary measures to combat and to prevent benefiting from criminal activity to recover the proceeds of crime etc.	Awaiting Final Draft form the Legal Draftsman.
Matrimonial Causes Act (Family Law Act)	To amend and consolidate the law and the procedure relating to nullity of marriage, dissolution of marriage and judicial separation of parties to a marriage.	Awaiting Amended Draft form the Legal Draftsman.

Recognition of Foreign Divorces	To provide for the recognition of foreign divorces, annulments of marriages or judicial separations of parties to a marriage.	Awaiting Certificate of Constitutionality from Hon. Attorney General.
Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101)(Pre-Trial Conference)	To repeal and replace the Chapter XA of the principal enactment with new Chapters transforming the pre-trial stage of civil proceedings from a trial to a conference and the introduction of the "Pre-trial Conference".	Awaiting Certificate of Constitutionality from Hon. Attorney General.
Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101)(Chapter VIII of the Issue and Service of Summons)	The proposed amendments have addressed the submission of a Memorandum of registered address/ mobile phone number and e-mail address of the parties and the registered Attorney, duty to notify the change of contact details, recognition of service of summons by courier service or e-mail, insertion of Senior Citizen Identity Card or Driving License as proof of identification of persons, mechanisms for signing of proxy by person residing within and outside Sri Lanka, duty of process officer, proof summons of by email, non-liability on the officer-in-charge of the Prison.	Awaiting Final Draft form the Legal Draftsman.
Amendments to Debt Conciliation Ordinance	To amend the consistence of the Debt Conciliation Boards and the procedure to be followed after receipt of an application to the board.	Legal Draftsman's Draft is being considered
Amendment to the Drug Dependent Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act	To amend the law to improve the existing procedure.	Awaiting a response from the Ministry of Defense.
New Arbitration Act	To repeal and replace the existing Arbitration Act.	Awaiting Final Draft form the Legal Draftsman.
Investment Disputes High Court Act	To establishment of an Investment Disputes High Court (IDHC) conferred jurisdiction to hear and determine 'Disputes' which meet the threshold value of Rs.50 Million and has arisen from an initial investment of Rs.100 Million or more.	Awaiting Preliminary Draft form the Legal Draftsman.

Amendments To Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act, No. 21 of 2003	To amend the law to improve the existing procedure.	Awaiting Policy approval on the Mediation Board's Act.
Amendment to the Penal Code (Statutory Rape)	To make the offence 'rape' gender neutral.	Awaiting amended draft from the Legal Draftsman.
Amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure Act and Amendment to the Judicature Act (Statutory Rape)	Amendment to bring about gender neutrality and doing away of the minimum mandatory sentencing.	Awaiting amended draft from the Legal Draftsman.
Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (Section 167-Recording of Testimony of Local and Foreign Witness by Audio-Visual Link)	To insert new provisions numbered Section 167 A to 167 M regarding the evidence of a witness to be given orally in open court.	Awaiting Preliminary draft from the Legal Draftsman.
Amendment to the Community Based Corrections Act	This amendment will remove the difficulties encountered in subjecting prisoners who had received a sentence under two years, and persons who were imprisoned for failure to pay small amount of fines to community based correction orders paving the way to make such persons law abiding citizens.	Awaiting amended draft from the Legal Draftsman.
Amendment to Partition Law	Some of the provisions and procedures applicable in partition law are outdated and create unnecessary complications and delay with the disposal of partition action.	Awaiting Certificate of Constitutionality from Hon. Attorney General.
The Recovery of Possession of the Premises given on Lease (Special Provisions) Act	To defeat laws delays in an ordinary rent and ejection action under regular procedure and to grant relief to the Lessor within a very short period.	Awaiting Certificate of Constitutionality from Hon. Attorney General.
New Legislation to replace the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime & Witnesses Act	To provide for the setting out of rights and entitlements of victims of crime and witnesses and the protection and promotion of such rights and entitlements and to give effect to appropriate international norms, best practices and standards etc.	AG's observations to be put to the Committee and proposed amendments sent to Legal Draftsman.

d) To be presented for the Policy Approval of the Cabinet

Title	Objective	Present Status
Prison Administration Bill	The Prison Ordinance was enacted in 1877 and there exists many lacunas that have been identified over the years in the Administration of Prisoners. In order to overcome the said issues and to meet the international standards and best practices, it was proposed to bring the new Prison Administration Act.	Awaiting observations and recommendations from the commissioner General of Prison's in order to incorporate into the draft bill of Legal Draftsman.
Sexual Harassment in Public Transport	To penalize the offenders who sexually harass women and children and any other persons in public transports	Cabinet Memorandum ready for the signature of Hon. Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.
Amendment to the Mediation Board Act No. 72 of 1988.	To obtain policy approval to amend the provisions relating to the appointment of Mediation Commission and other further amendments.	Awaiting Cabinet Decision.
Tobacco Tax (Amendment) Bill	To increase the tobacco tax.	Draft Joint Cabinet Memorandum sent to the President Office for confirmation.
Amendment to Marriage Registration Ordinance	To provide provisions to register divorces and nullity of marriages in the Marriage Registration Ordinance. Consequential amendment to the proposed Recognition of Foreign Divorces.	Awaiting Cabinet Decision.
Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code(Damages for Injury to Person)	To expedite the trial in respect of damages for injury to person by allowing the person to submit himself for a medical examination by not exceeding three medical practitioners and use such reports submitted by the medical practitioners as evidence of facts stated therein at the trial. This amendment inserts a new Section 429A with new Heading "D. COMMISSIONS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION".	Awaiting Cabinet Decision.
Amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure Act (Chapter XXX- Inquests of Death)	To amend the Chapter XXX- 30 Inquests of Death and introduce new provisions.	To be sent to Cabinet. Awaiting Tamil translation of the Cabinet Memorandum.

3.1.2 Rule, Orders and Regulation

a) Gazette/ Approved in Parliament

Title	Objective	Present Status
Order under section 2,3 &8 the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act No. 21 of 2003	To establish the Special Mediation Boards for Land mediation.	Gazette No.2261/68 dated 06.01.2022.
Rules under the Prison Ordinance	To bring amendments to the existing prison rules identifying the issues on children who are admitted to prison with their mothers, prisoners who are seriously ill, separation and clarification of prisoners and special risk assessment of prisoners. The amended Rules attempt to address the above matters and bring more practical solutions in this regard.	Gazette No.2288/15 dated 12.07.2022. To be present in the Parliament
Order under section 4 the Mediation Boards Act No. 72 of 1988	For the establishment of mediation Boards in referred Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Nuwaraeliya, Galle, Mullaitivu, and Ratnapura.	Gazette No.2293/46 dated 18.08.2022.

b) In the process of preparation

Title	Objective	Present Status
Regulations under section 27 read with section 4(2) of the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act, No. 21 of 2003	To gazette the qualifications of the Panel of Mediators in respect of the Special Mediation Board specified in the Order published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2259/11 dated 21.12.2021	Legal Draftsman is preparing the revised draft.
Regulations under Section 60 read with Section 61 of the Judicature Act, No.2 of 1978 (Financial Statutes) Northern and Eastern Province	To gazette the order to be made by the Minister with concurrence of the Chief Justice to empower the District and Magistrates Courts of Northern and Eastern Provinces to determine matters in relation to Financial Statutes enacted by the respective Provincial Council.	To be obtained the concurrence of the Chief Justice in respect of the Eastern Provinces.

3.1.3 Coordination of Committees

Name	Mandate	Present Status
Anti-Corruption Bill	To replace the current law with a stronger legislation.	Latest draft sent to the Hon. Attorney General for the issuance of the constitutionally certificate by the Department of Legal Draftsman.
Special Law on Disposal of Property - the Subjects of Offences	Committee is appointed under the Chairmanship of Hon. Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC to make recommendations.	The Committee is presently deliberating on the subject and had 6 meetings so far.
Introduction of a new law to prescribe interest in any contract made by or on behalf of the State to disqualify for election as a Member of Parliament or sit and vote in the Parliament	Although the Constitution has provided in Article 91 (1) (e) of the Constitution to formulate and enact a law describing the disqualification of a Member of Parliament if he has any interest in a contract made by or on behalf of the state or a public corporation, the Parliament has failed to make such laws during past 44 years. Therefore, a committee is appointed to have a Bill drafted by a committee to prescribe the kind of interest of a Member of Parliament that would disqualify him sitting in Parliament.	Committee to be convened.

3.1.4 Publication of Sri Lanka Law Reports

Sri Lanka Law Reports is a series of publication that contain important judicial opinions from a selection of judgments of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. These are treated as the official record of legal cases, mainly used to help practitioners decide on a particular course of action. This is a continuing process prepared under an Editorial Board.

The present Editorial Board has finalized Sri LR for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 and has sent the same to the Government Printer. The Editorial Board is currently proofing the 2020 and 2021 printing versions and is in the process of preparing the 2022 reports.

3.1.4 Implementation of International Obligations

- Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act, No. 10 of 2001
- Transfers of Offenders Act No. 05 of 1995
- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act No.25 of 2002 Incoming/ Outgoing
- Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Act, No. 39 of 2000 Incoming/Outgoing
- Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act, No. 10 of 2001
Progress of applications received pertaining to children who are accompanied to other country from Sri Lanka

The country to which children have been taken	No. of requests received
Dubai	01

- **Transfers of Offenders Act No. 05 of 1995**

Transfers of Offenders Act No. 05 of 1995, provides for the transfer to a specified country of a citizen of such country, convicted of an offence in Sri Lanka, and transfer of any Sri Lankan citizen to Sri Lanka convicted of an offence in a specified country.

Progress of the transfers to a specified country of a citizen of such country convicted of an offence in Sri Lanka in 2022

Countries to which Transferred	No. of offenders
Thailand	02
India	02

- **Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act No.25 of 2002**

With the objective to give effect the provision of mutual assistance in criminal matters, Sri Lanka has ratified and signed treaties with various countries. These treaties provide the scope of assistance in criminal matters in terms of investigation, prosecution, herein of cases and implementation of legal findings by each state party.

Progress of the incoming and outgoing mutual legal requests handled for the year 2022 up to today.

No.	Country	Incoming requests	Outgoing requests
1	Australia	-	01
2	India	01	-
3	France	03	-
4	Maldives	01	01
5	Belgium	-	01
6	Belarus	01	-
7	Doha Qatar	01	-
8	UK	01	01
9	Ukraine	01	-
10	Turkey	-	01
11	UAE	01	-
12	Hong Kong	-	01
13	Korea	01	-
14	Portugal	01	-
15	Oman	01	-
16	Poland	01	-
Total		14	06

- **Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Act, No. 39 of 2000**

By virtue of the authority provided for by the Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Act, No. 39 of 2000, 125 summons issued by the Courts throughout the country during the period from 01st January, 2022 to 30th September, 2022 have been served to the addresses appeared in such court processes through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Progress of the summons issued by the Courts throughout the country during the period from 01st January, 2022 to 30th September, 2022

Country	Number of summons issued	Country	Number of summons issued
Australia	20	Malaysia	04
Canada	08	Maldives Island	02
China	10	New Zealand	04
Cyprus	03	Oman	01
Doha Qatar	03	Philippine	01
France	05	Russia	07
Germany	20	Singapore	02
India	24	Thailand	01
Israel	03	Spain	03
Italy	21	Switzerland	05
Japan	06	UAE	07
Korea	04	UK	17
KSA	08	USA	10
Kuwait	15		
Total			214

Summons/request issued by Foreign Courts to accused/witnesses who are residing in Sri Lanka there have been 63 requests under the Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Act, No. 39 of 2000 are been received from foreign countries.

Progress of the summons issued by Foreign Courts to accused/ witnesses who are residing in Sri Lanka during the period from 01st January, 2022 to 30th September, 2022

Country	Request Received	Country	Request Received
Australia	01	Malaysia	03
Canada	04	Korea	01
China	09	Norway	04
France	08	Slovakia	02
Germany	03	Scotland	01
India	13	Switzerland	08
Italy	02	United States of America	01
Japan	01	Ukraine	01
Poland	01		
Total			63

3.1.6 Implementation of International Obligations

Records of the Report of special Reporter of the United Nation in 2022

	Report name	Requested from	Status
01	Country Visit of Mr. Tomoya Obokota, Special Rapporteur (SR) on Contemporary of slavery, including its causes and consequences – 26 th November to 3 rd December 2021	Foreign Ministry 05.05.2022	Response sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23.05.2022
02	Joint Communication from three special procedures concerning Mr. Arumahandige Janith Madushanka	Foreign Ministry 29.12.2021	Response sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13.01.2022.
03	Letter from Working group on Arbitrary Detention	Foreign Ministry 30.12.2021	Response was sent to Foreign Ministry on 12.02.2022
04	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression	Foreign Ministry 29.12.2021	Response sent to the Secretary, Foreign Ministry on 13.01.2022.
05	6 th Meeting of the EU-SL Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights	Foreign Ministry 27.09.2022	Response sent to the Secretary, Foreign Ministry on 11.10.2022

3.1.7 Task forces related to the legal sector and contributions made thereto

- **The National Task Force against Human Trafficking**

Contribution from the Ministry for the activities of the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Defense

The Ministry of Justice Prison Affairs and constitutional Reforms contributed in the preparation of the trafficking in persons (TIP) report – 2022 which was sent to the U.S Department of state and Sri Lanka was elevated to Tier-2 from Tier – 2 watch list

- **Public Petitions**

For the year 2022 (as at 30th September), there are 905 public petitions handled by Legal Division.

- **National Authority for Protection of Victims of Crime and Witness**

Obtaining contemporary audio-visual linkage - 02

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION

3.2.1 Introduction

The Administration Division is entrusted with duties pertaining to main subjects including establishment and administration affairs of the Ministry, coordination of such establishment and administration affairs of all departments and institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry, establishment and administration affairs in respect of posts in the courts not fallen under the Scheduled Service and provision and coordination of infrastructure facilities necessary for the administration and establishment activities of the courts.

3.2.2 Establishment and administration activities of the Ministry

Creation of new posts and increase of the number of existing post have been carried out (from Executive Grade to Primary Grade) considering the need to facilitate the implementation of the task of the Ministry of Justice sustainably and for the firm maintenance of the restructuring process of the judicial system including the process of law reforms.

3.2.3 Functions relating to institutions coming within the purview of Ministry of Justice

1. Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was obtained to grant permanent status of appointments to drivers and KKS who were recruited on contract basis in coincidence with the increase of the number of Judges in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal by the operation of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution and subsequently, in compliance with the said approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, those drivers and KKS were recruited on permanent basis.
2. Arrangements were made to fill the vacancies in the posts of Primary Service Category in the courts and institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry.
 - Expeditiously attachment of Multi-Purpose Development Assistants to fill 225 KKS posts in the courts. (The proposed attachment is now in progress.)
 - Recruitment of 16 posts of Fiscal Matron and 10 posts of Fiscal Peon in the Primary Service Category for the courts.
 - Recruitment of 08 drivers needed to be filled immediately in the institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry.
3. A transfer scheme has not been introduced to date for officers serving in courts. The approval of the Public Service Commission was obtained for the internal transfer scheme in respect of posts of KKS and pursuant to which, 90 such annual transfers were effected.
4. A transfer scheme has not been introduced to date for officers serving in courts. Hence, an annual transfer scheme was first introduced based on the approval of the Public Services Commission for the posts of Process Server, Court Watcher, Fiscal Peon and Fiscal Matron working in the courts and accordingly annual transfer have been effected in respect of 118 Process Servers, 67 Court Watchers, 20 Fiscal Peon and 19 Fiscal Matrons.
5. As it has been observed that there have been many issues in courts in respect of payments of overtime for Court Watches and Security Guards working in the courts, a new Circular was issued upon collection of information referring such issues. [MOJ Circular No. 1/2008(i)]
6. Two internal Circulars have been issued to address the matters relating to overtime payments for the engagement in the service of ministry officials and as well as officers of the departments and institutions under the Ministry, (MOJ Circular No. 08/2022 and MOJ Circular No. 03/2022)
7. A committee was appointed to approve overtime payment for officers of the Ministry and the departments and institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry, and approval of overtime is thus done on the basis of the decision of the committee.

8. A committee was appointed to decide the revision of fees charged for certified copies to be issued by the courts and Labour Tribunal and the recommendation of the committee were referred to the Salaries Commission to obtain approval for such revision of fees.
9. A MOJ Circular No.06/2022 was issued to raise awareness among officers of all courts, in respect of fees applicable to issuance of certified copies of the case records and digital copies of audio/video recordings.
10. Approval has been obtained to recruit an officer to the post of Director (Finance) on contract basis to the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation.
11. Scheme of recruitment to the posts of Translator (MN 04) of the Office on Missing Persons was sent for approval and recruitment was made to the post of Executive Director.
12. Scheme of recruitment to the posts of Assistant Director to the Office of Reparation was sent the Ministry of Finance.
13. Approval was granted to recruit Stenographers qualified at the structured interview, to the Labour Tribunal Secretariat and letters of appointment was granted to 14 Stenographers qualified at the structured interview.
14. Approval was granted to the annual transfer for 2023 of the Labour Tribunal Secretariat and approval was obtained for Efficiency Bar Examination for the post of Stenographer.
15. Request has been sent to the Department of Management Services to approve 07 posts under F.R 71, for the Judicial Service Commission, Non-Judicial Officers Training Institute and National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses.
16. Approval has been sought to recruit 50 State Counsel to the Attorney General's Department, according to which, the Department of National Budget has given approval to recruit 25 of them in the year 2022 and the remaining 25 State Counsel in the year 2023. The Public Service Commission is in the process of appointing 24 officers for the year under review.
17. Appointments have been made to the office of Chairman/Members for the Boards of Directors and Boards of Management of the Office of Reparation, the Office on Missing Persons, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, the Mediation Board Commission, the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses and the Legal Aid Commission.
18. For the year 2022, 210 new appointments of Development Officers were referred to the Ministry, of which 137 officers have been attached to courts and departments and institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry.
19. 30 requests have been received under the Right to Information Act for all which, answers have been given added to 04 appeals that have also been answered.

20. The process of removal of absolute ownership in the original registration documents related to the vehicles obtained to the Ministry under the financial lease have been finalized and the activities of the transfer of vehicles that have been brought to this Ministry from other Ministries, Departments and Institutions, in favour of this Ministry have also been completed successfully.
21. It has been finalized nearly 75% of investigations under F.R. 104, in respect of vehicle accidents in the year 2022. Further, it has been finalized nearly 75% of investigations under F.R. 104 with regard to vehicles accidents under court administration expenditure head. The Ministry has intervened to provide three vehicles not auctioned though reserved for disposal after use by the Supreme Court, for the use of the students studying higher education technology.
22. Repairs and services have been carried out so that no allocations for the first and second quarter of the year 2022 have remained unutilized. Repairs and services have been carried out so that no allocations for the first and second quarter of the year 2022 with regard to the court administration expenditure head have remained unutilized.

3.2.4 Future activities planned to be carried out

1. It has been planned to take necessary steps for the revision of the existing salary scale of the Legal Draftsmen's Department and restructuring the Department.
2. The Ministry is in the process of creating an information portal for the purpose of calling upon information on establishment affairs from the officers deployed to courts by the Ministry and for sending all correspondences to courts through the Ministry website
3. Plan has been made to develop a system enabling online access to personnel information of officers serving in courts.

3.3 PLANNING DIVISION

3.3.1 Role of the Planning Division

The Planning Division mainly focuses on identifying projects of the Ministry and the institutions under the purview of the Ministry, reviewing progress and supervision thereof key functions related to the planning Division are set out below.

- Identifying projects that are related to the judicial sector.
- Obtaining approval for such projects from the Department of Planning.
- Submitting project proposals that are sought foreign aid to the Department of External Resources.
- Submission of Cabinet Memorandum for initial approval of new projects.
- Inclusion of the development projects of the Ministry into the Public Investment Plan.
- Submitting Capital Budget Estimate in respect of the objects for the Ministry and Courts Administration.
- Submitting Budget Proposals for Budget Speech.
- Reviewing progress and reporting the progress to the respective institutions.
- Preparing and submitting the Annual Progress Report of the Ministry for the Budget Debate.
- Tabling the Annual Progress Report of the Ministry in Parliament.
- Submitting Annual Reports of the institutions within the purview of the Ministry for the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers and tabling in Parliament.
- Formulating combined, strategic corporative plans for the Justice sector
- Coordinating District and Divisional Development Committees on development projects.
- Following up the Development Projects of the Ministry and the institutions within the purview of the Ministry.
- Collecting Statistical Reports of court cases in courts and preparing Annual Statistics Report.
- Coordinating Parliamentary Ministerial Advisory working committees.

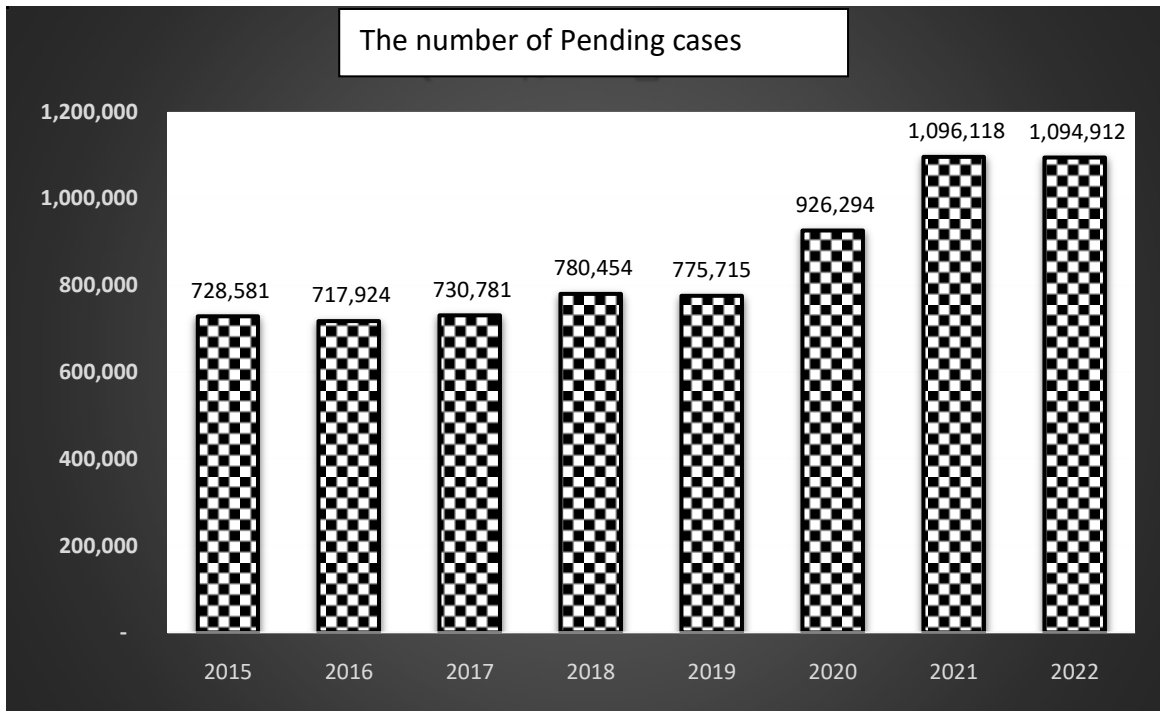
3.3.2 Progress of the performing function of the Planning Division

a) Implementation of the three year development plan on upgrading infrastructure facilities in judicial sector

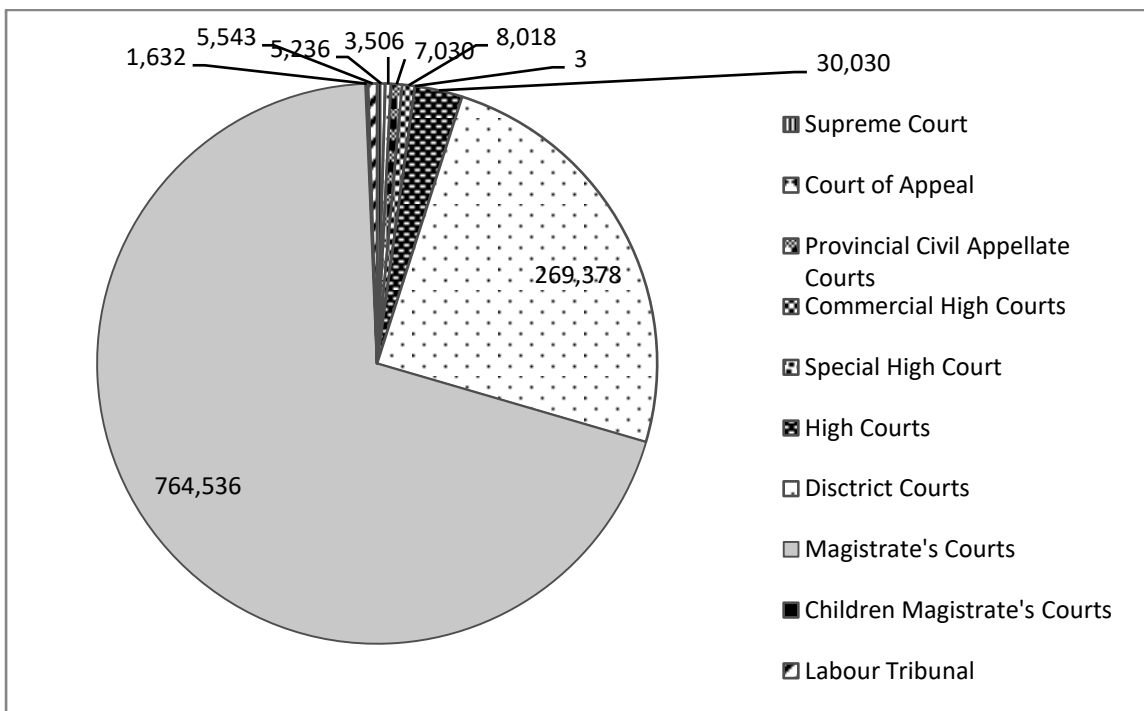
For a considerable long period of time, long term delays in court cases have been witnessed. The backlog of cases in courts in Sri Lanka as at 30.06.2022 is 1,094,912

The number of Judges for hearing those huge number of cases is 15 per 1 Million of the population and with the recent recruitment of judges, the number has increased to 18. However, this is very low in comparison to the international standard and may have caused to drag down Sri Lanka in international grading. Long delays in settling court cases have discouraged the foreign investment in Sri Lanka.

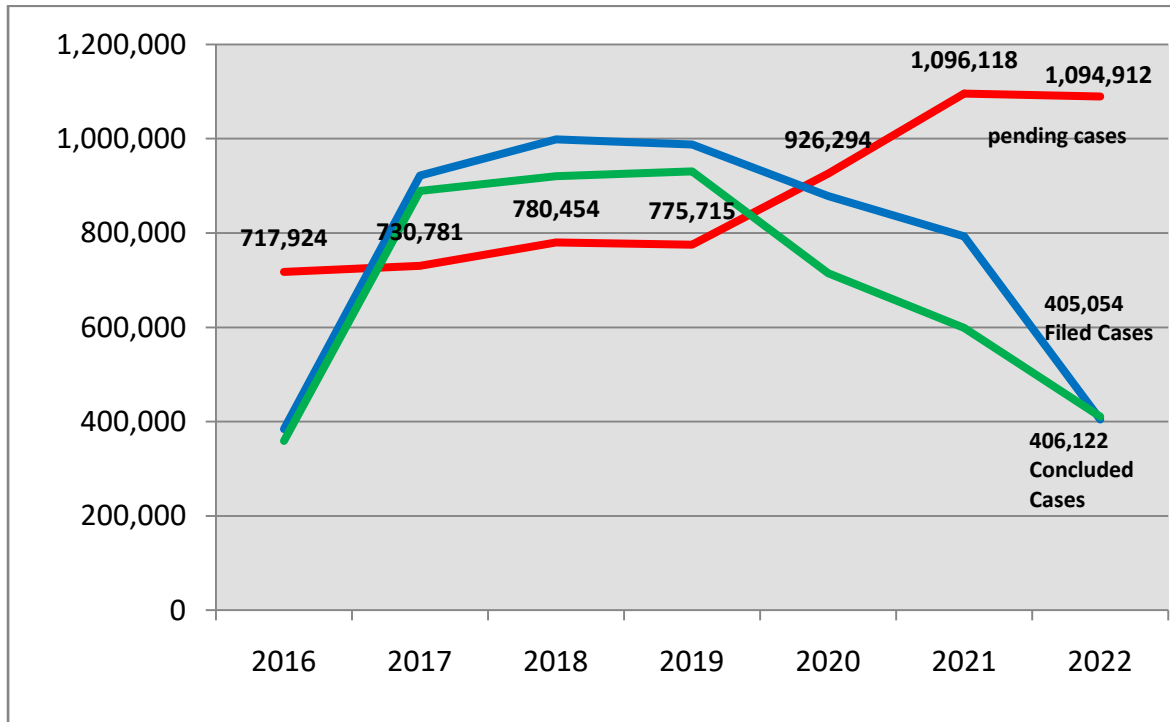
The number of cases to be resolved as of December 31 of the last six years and as of 2022.06.30 is as follows.



Also, the number of pending cases by 30.06.2022 according to each court is as follows.



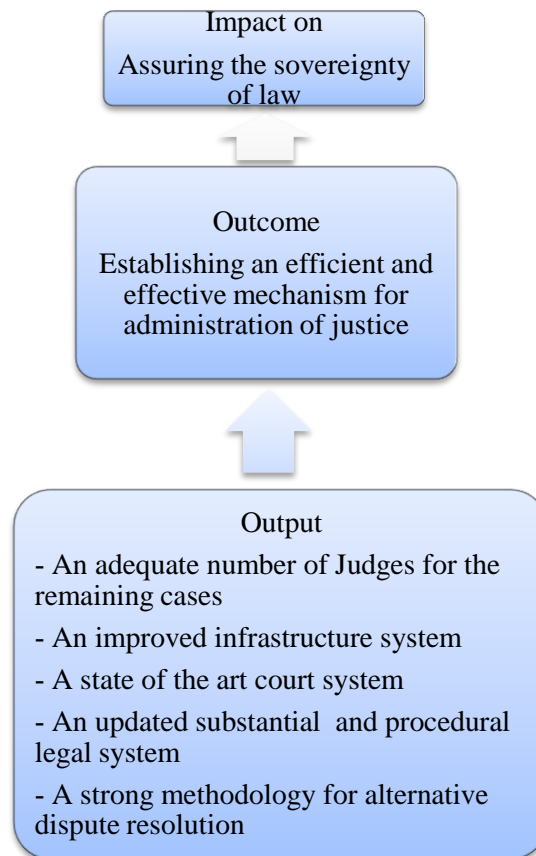
Accordingly, it is clear from the graph below that there is a decrease in the number of cases filed and the number of cases finalized under various circumstances in the past, and the number of cases to be resolved is increasing,



A summary of the information collected from the courts up to the second quarter of 2022 is as follows.

Courts	No. of Courts	No. of Court houses	Number of Cases to be resolved.	Number of Judges
Supreme Courts	01	04	5,236	17
Court of Appeal	01	10	3,506	20
Civil Appellate High Courts	22	22	7,030	90
Commercial High Court	01	04	8,018	
Special High Courts	02	02	03	
High Courts (Criminal)	34	43	30,030	
District Courts	35	63	269,378	148
District/ Magistrate's Courts	51	64	-	
Magistrate's Courts	54	79	764,536	104
Children's Magistrate Courts	02	02	1,632	-
Circuit Magistrate's Courts	22	-	-	
Labour Tribunals	39	39	5,543	26
Total	264	332	1,094,912	405

A long-term plan was developed in the year 2020 to reduce the long-standing delay in the judicial sector. Accordingly, several strategies were identified for promoting the rule of law through an efficient and effective justice mechanism.



- However achieving the goals of this plan has become a great challenge. Although on the prevailing situation of the country legal reforms have been successfully carried out as planned.
- Accordingly, 12 in 2021 and 14 up to now in 2022 altogether 26 legal reforms have been made. The number of drafts prepared and sent by the Legal Draftsman’s department in all three languages is 196. (Further information has been submitted under the progress of the legal division and Legal Draftsman’s department)
- After 40 years, it was able to increase the number of judges in High Courts by 14 and also 49 judicial officers were recruited for the District Magistrate Courts. 26 persons were promoted as High Court Judges.
- Bench of Judges of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal has been increased by 2 and 4 respectively. Also, it has been possible to establish an additional commercial court, a new provincial high court and 2 new district courts. Another judge has been appointed to 10 each District/Magistrate’s Courts which hear criminal and civil cases together and then separated those courts into courts which hear civil cases and criminal cases separately.
- Information of the progress of infrastructure development has been included under the role of engineering division.

- Information on strengthening the process of alternative disputes resolution is mentioned under Mediation Board Commission and Department Of Debt Conciliation

It is expected to review the situation and prepare and implement a revised plan for implementation as soon as the economic situation of the country is back to normal.

b) Submitting the action plan

- The Action plan for the year 2022 has been prepared and got approved on 22.02.2022.
- A monthly action plan was prepared for the provision allocated to the budget heads of this ministry and directed the staff officers for supervision.

c) Submitting the budget estimates

Engineering division was coordinated to submit the estimates of large scale and small scale projects on constructing buildings and budget estimate for year 2022 to the Accounts Division.

d) Preparing and submitting progress reports

- 9 reports containing the progress of development projects were submitted to the Project Management and Monitoring Department in every month.
- 03 reports containing information on projects worth more than 100 million rupees were submitted to the Project Management and Supervision Department in every quarter.
- Preparation of 3 quarterly reports related to the progress on capital expenditure of the ministry and institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry with regard to the budget of the year 2022.

e) Conducting progress review meetings

- The progress achieved in the implementation of projects and programs of the Ministry of Justice and the institutions under the Ministry was discussed quarterly and the progress review meeting for the second quarter was conducted on 05.09.2022 under the chairmanship of the Hon. Minister of Justice
- Meetings were held regarding the monitoring and progress of the development projects implemented by the Ministry of Justice in a continuous basis.
- The responsibility of the expenditure heads under the Ministry of Justice was assigned to the staff officers and the progress of capital expenditure was discussed in 6 monthly progress review meetings.

f) Supervision of Development Projects

Ongoing Large Scale Projects (above Rs. Mn. 100)

On going Major Projects (as at 30th Sept 2022)



g) Referring reports to district coordinating committees

Quarterly reporting of the progress of all development projects included in the capital investment programs jointly operated in the districts of Gampaha, Kurunegala, Polonnaruwa.

h) Conducting Advisory Committee Meetings

Another role performed by the Planning Division is to coordinating Advisory Committee meetings of the Ministry. Accordingly, 05 ministerial advisory committee meetings were held by the third quarter of this year.

Accordingly, the progress of those meetings is as follows.

Number of acts considered	- 17
Number of Annual reports considered	- 06
Number of proposals from Members of Parliament	- 01

This division carries out the coordination between the Parliament and other institutions and the coordination with the institutions under the Ministry in order to make these meetings successful.

I) PREPARATION OF ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

- Preparation of Progress Report of 2022 and submitted to the Parliament
- Preparation of Annual Performance Report of 2021 and submitted to the Parliament

J) Right to Information Act

Information has been submitted in response to two requests made under the Right to Information Act No. 16 of 2016.

K) Comprehensive Refurbishment Project of the Superior Courts Complex

A bilateral agreement was signed on 15th December 2016 between the Government of People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Project of extensive refurbishment of the Superior Courts Complex. This project is a grant aid project, the total Cost of the Project is RMB 240 Million.

A technical committee for this project consisting of members from the Supreme Court Complex Management Board and the Ministry has been appointed and the basic plans prepared by coordinating with the Project Management Committee of the Republic of China has been approved. Also, this ministry is carrying out the necessary procurement activities for the purchase of transformers. Also, procurement activities are being carried out by the Republic of China to select the contractor for the renovation project and the it is scheduled to be implemented at the end of this year.

1) Submitting Performance report in Parliament

Progress in submitting performance reports of the Ministry of Justice and the Departments under the Ministry.

Department	Year	Date of submitting to the Parliament	Other
Ministry of Justice	2021	02.08.2022	
Attorney General's Department	2020	07.12.2021	
	2021	Not submitted	Report is being Prepared
Legal Draftsman's Department	2021	10.08.2022	
Department of law Commission	2021	21.09.2022	
Government Analyst's Department	2021	28.10.2022	
Department of Debt Conciliation Board	2020	Covering letter was obtained by the institution on 16.11.2021	But the Report has not been submitted to the Parliament
	2021		Report is being printed to submit to the Parliament
Department of Prisons	2021	2022.06.29	
Department of Community Based Correction	2020	2021.10.15	
Registrar's office - Supreme Court	2021	2022.10.19	

J) The progress of submitting annual reports of Statutory Boards under the Ministry

Department	Year	Date of receiving Cabinet Approval	Date of submitting to the Parliament	Other
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute	2017	2022.02.15	2022.07.25	
	2018	Necessary arrangements are being made to forward the Cabinet Memorandum		
	2019			Report is being prepared
	2020			
	2021			

Department	Year	Date of receiving Cabinet Approval	Date of submitting to the Parliament	Other
Superior Courts Complex Board of Management	2020	2022.02.15	2022.03.18	
	2021	Necessary arrangements are being made to forward the Cabinet Memorandum		
Legal Aid Commission	2020	2022.06.21	2022.08.22	
	2021			Report is being prepared
National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witness	2020	2021.12.21	2022.08.03	
	2021			Report is being prepared
Office for Reparations	2017	2021.08.03	2022.06.24	
	2018	To be forward to the cabinet		
	2019			
	2020			
	2021			Report is being prepared
Office on Missing Persons	2020	2022.02.15		To be submitted to the Parliament
	2021	Necessary arrangements are being made to forward the Cabinet Memorandum		It is being prepared.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.4.1 The brief outline of the basic functions being carried out by the Development Division

1. Identification, title clearance, acquisition of lands holding possession by courts throughout the island, departments and institutions that are coming within the purview of the Ministry of Justice and taking action for acquiring lands as necessity arisen.
2. Taking on lease or rent suitable buildings to house courts, institutions and official residencies for Judges in respect of which buildings have not still been constructed.
3. Referring the lands and buildings of which transferring and acquiring to the Ministry of Justice have been completed for accounting of values upon assessment of values.
4. Identification and taking on lease or rent suitable buildings in such instances where there are no adequate spaces to house separate courts for combined courts so as to cope with the backlog of cases pending in courts and relive the overcrowding.

3.4.2 **Activities of identification, title clearance, acquisition of lands holding possession by courts, Departments and institutions that are coming within the purview of the Ministry of Justice.**

Transferring and acquisition of lands - Total number of lands	302
Number of lands of which transfer is completed	76
Number of lands of which the activities of transfer being carried out	203
• Number of lands which are being identified on exigencies	35
• Lands on which the basic particulars are being obtained from Divisional Secretary/Mahaweli Authority	18
• Informing the Divisional Secretary/Mahaweli Authority to survey and mark boundaries in respect of such lands for which information cannot be traced.	22
• Making pre-determined payments (by the respective court/the Ministry) after issuing order of surveying by the Divisional Secretary/Mahaweli Authority.	05
• Forwarding the application upon the receipt of the particulars of the respective land.	85
• Obtaining approval for transfer from the respective Local Authorities by the Divisional Secretary/Mahaweli Authority	09
• Submission of the application with the relevant approvals for the recommendation of the Provincial Land Commissioner by the Divisional Secretary.	05

• Referring the application with the recommendation of the Provincial Land Commissioner to the Commissioner of Land by the Divisional Secretary	16	
• Appointing a date of transfer upon the receipt of the recommendation of the Commissioner of Lands by the Divisional Secretary.	08	
Number of lands the acquisition is in progress		23
Land exchanges		04
Other		17

The Division takes charge of activities of identification, title clearance, transfer, acquisition and possession of lands indicated above. In addition, the Division is also entrusted with updating of information pertaining to lands owned by the Ministry. Thus, a data base pertaining to the lands of all courts and official residencies in 34 judicial zones throughout the island is maintained and updated.

02 Acquisition of lands for establishing new courts and official residencies. (23 plots of land)

01 Acquisition of a portion of the land belonged to the B.C.C. (British Ceylon Corporation) situated at Colombo for the project known as “House of Justice”.

Action are being taken to acquire to the Ministry of Justice a portion of land containing in extent of 06 Acres from and out of the land belonged to the B.C.C. situated at close proximity to the Superior Court Complex premises, Colombo for the project “House of Justice”. Accordingly, the right to develop the land has been obtained from Divisional Secretary, Dam Street and the construction works of the project “Housed of Justice” are underway. Further, as per the provisions laid down in the Land Acquisition Act, compensation claim investigations have been conducted and the Government assessment report is to be obtained subject to the Section 10 (1) (a) of Land Acquisition Act so as to proceed with regard to settlement of claims for compensation.

02 Acquisition of three plots of land adjacent to the new Court Complex, Galle

Arrangements are in progress to acquire three plots of land containing in extent of 03 Acres situated at adjacent to the new Court Complex, Galle and the Order in compliance with Section 04 of the Land Acquisition Act has already been issued. Accordingly, inquiries are to be held in the future on the objections raised against the acquiring of the said plots of land.

03 Acquisition of land for the construction of new Court Complex, Kalutara.

The Ministry of Justice has acquired undisturbed possession of the plot of land containing in extent of 02 Acres 02 Roods 20.66 Perches (1.064 Hectares) situated at Katukurunda Village in Divisional Secretariat, Kalutara on which new court complex, Kalutarais proposed to be constructed. Presently, in terms of the Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act, compensation claim investigation has been conducted. Assessment report obtained upon issuing the notice subject to the Section 10(1)(a) has been submitted to the Court and the order is to be obtained for the activities related to compensation.

04 Acquisition of the plot of land on which the Circuit Magistrate's Court, Narammala is located.

Actions are being carried out to acquire the plot of land containing in extent of 01 Rood and 38.67 Perches on which the Circuit Magistrate's Court, Narammala is located, to the Ministry of Justice. The approval has been granted to manage the financial provisions necessary for the said acquisition from the collective provisions allocated to the Ministry of Lands subject to the FR 53 and the proposal of acquisition has been forwarded to the Ministry of Lands.

05 Acquisition of a plot of land adjacent to the Circuit Magistrate's Court, Narammala.

In coincidence with the elevation of the Circuit Magistrate's Court, Narammala to a permanent Magistrate's Court, acquisition of plots of land containing in extent of 80 perches from a private land adjacent to the land on which the present court is located is now in progress. Accordingly, action has been taken to obtain gross assessed value of the land for obtaining financial provision under F.R. 53.

06 Acquisition of a plots of land for the expansion of the court, Baddegama.

Activities are now in progress to acquire a plot of land containing in extent about 02 Acres to the Ministry of Justice for expansion of the Court, Baddegama. Accordingly, gross assessed value has been obtained for obtaining financial provision under F.R 53.

07 Acquisition of the plot of land on which Circuit Magistrate's Court Kalpitiya is located.

As the plot of land containing in extent of about 01 Acre 01 Rood 22 Perches on which the Circuit Magistrate's Court Kalpitiya is located is belonged to the Land Reforms Commission, action is being taken to acquire that plot of land to the Ministry of Justice. Accordingly, gross assessed value of the land has been obtained for obtaining financial provision under F.R.53.

08 Acquisition of a plot of land for establishment of District/Magistrate's Court, Meerigama.

Action is being taken to acquire about 03 Acres from the land called Kahatagahakurunduwattasituated at Murugampala Village in the Divisional Secretary's Division, Meerigama. Therefore, action has been taken to obtain a gross tracing from the Divisional Secretary clearly depicting the divided extent of land proposed to be transferred to the Ministry of Justice,.

09 Acquisition of a plot of land d for the District/ Magistrate's Court, Valachchenai

Action is being taken to acquire a plot of private land to this Ministry for the construction of new buildings for the District/ Magistrate's Court, Valachchenai. It is to obtain a gross tracing from the Divisional Secretary dividing the allotment of land containing in extent of 01 Rood and 38.28 Perches proposed to be acquired.

10. Acquisition of the land on which the Court Complex, Tangalle is located.

The land on which the Court Complex, Tangalle is located was in possession of the District Textile Industry Cooperative Society, Hambanthota and at the time of liquidation of that land by the Southern Province Development Commissioner, the District Cooperative Rural Bank Association Limited, Hambantota has purchased it in the year 2022. Accordingly, action is being taken to obtain gross assessed value of the land for proceeding the acquisition of the land.

11. Acquisition of two plots of land for District/Magistrate's Court, Udugama.

As plots of land marked J and K in the racing GA/NGD/2016/90 depicting the land on which the District/Magistrate Court, Udugama are private lands, request has been submitted to the Director General of Budget for approval of obtaining provision under F.R. 53 to acquire that plot of land to the Ministry of Justice.

12. Acquisition of land for construction of District/Magistrate Court Walapane.

As it has been informed that the plot of land containing in extent about 02 Rood and 39.8 perches on which the Magistrate's Court, Walapane is located is owned by the Land Reforms Commission, action is being taken to acquire that plot of land to the Ministry of Justice. Accordingly, gross assessed value of the land has been obtained for obtaining financial provision under F.R. 53.

13. Acquisition of a plot of land for District/Magistrate's Court Warakapola.

As it has been informed that the plot of land containing in extent about 04 Acres, 02 Roods and 22 Perches on which the District/Magistrate Court Warakapola is located, is owned by the Land Reforms Commission, action is being taken to acquire that plot of land to the Ministry of Justice. Accordingly, request has been submitted to the Director General of Budget for obtaining provision under F.R. 53 to acquire that plot of land.

14. Acquisition of a plot of land for District/Magistrate's Court, Passara.

Action is being taken to acquire a plot of land containing in extent about 02 Acres, owned by the Land Reforms Commission to this Ministry for construction of District/Magistrate's Court, Passara. Accordingly, it is to survey the above plot of land and to provide the tracing by the Land Reforms Commission to obtain gross assessed value of the land to ensure the acquisition of that plot of land.

15. Acquisition of a plot of land for Court Complex, Welimada.

Acquisition of land containing in extent about 2 Acres owned by Land Reforms Commission to Ministry of Justice for construction of Court Complex, Welimada, is in progress. Presently, compensation claim investigation has been made under the Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act and valuation of land has been obtained under Section 10(1)(a) and action is being taken to payment of compensation under Section 17.

16. Acquisition of a plot of land for District/Magistrate's Court Nawalapitiya.

Action is being taken to acquire a plot of land containing in extent about 60 Perches on which the building owned by the District/Magistrate's Court, Nawalapitiya is located to the Ministry of Justice. Accordingly, gross assessed value of the land has been obtained for obtaining financial provision under F.R. 53.

17. Acquisition of the plot of land adjacent to the land on which the District/Magistrate Court, Aththanagalla is situated.

Steps are being taken to acquire a plot of land containing in extent 1 Acre and 4.8 Perches of the land adjacent to the Court and owned by the Board of Investment, Sri Lanka for the purpose of expanding the District/Magistrate Court, Aththanagalla. Accordingly, gross estimated value has been submitted for obtaining financial provision under F.R.53.

18. Acquisition of the plots of land adjacent to the Court for expanding the Court Complex, Gampola.

A plot of land owned by Urban Council, Gampola has been acquired by the Ministry of Justice to expand the Court complex, Gampola. Accordingly, as per Section No. 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, The preliminary plan has been sent to the Department of Survey for revision. Once the receipt of preliminary plan, it has been scheduled to publish same in the Gazette in accordance with the Section No. 7 of the Act

Construction of Judges' Official Residence

19. Acquisition of a land to establish Magistrate' Official Residence, Rambadagalla.

Actions are being taken to acquire to the Ministry of Justice a plot of land containing in extent 30.7 Perches of the land owned by RideeViharaya in the Divisional Secretary's Division, Rideegama in the District of Kurunegala to establish Magistrate's Official Residence, Rambadagalla. Steps have thus been taken in accordance with the Section No. 2 of the Land Acquisition Act and survey of the land has been scheduled.

20. Acquisition of the land on which the old judge's Official Residence, Marawila is located.

As it has been informed that the land on which the old judge's Official Residence, Marawila is situated is a private land, action are being taken to acquire the said land containing in extent 1 Rood and 24.6 Perches. Accordingly, gross estimated value has been calculated for obtaining financial provision under F.R.53.

21. Acquisition of the land on which the judge's Official Residence, Balapitiya is located.

Actions are being taken to acquire to the Ministry of Justice 3 plots of land containing in extent 2 Acres, 2 Roods and 10.94 Perches on which the Official Residence of High Court judge, Official Residence of District Court judge and Official Residence of Magistrate are located. Accordingly, gross estimated value has been calculated for obtaining financial provision under F.R.53.

22. Acquisition of land to establish judge's Official Residence, Tangalle.

Actions are being taken to acquire to the Ministry of Justice 3 plots of land containing in extent 2 Roods and 6.77 Perches owned by the Land Reforms Commission to establish High Court Judge's Official Residence, Civil Appellate High Court Judge's Official Residence and Magistrate's Official Residence, Tangalle. Accordingly, gross estimated value has been calculated for obtaining financial provision under F.R.53.

23. Acquisition of a plot of land from and out of the land, being the subject matter in Case No. HC/26/17 situated at Malwana, Gampaha to construct a Training Center for the judicial sector.

In compliance with the Cabinet Decision No. Cab/17/1265/731/011-IV dated 20.06.2017, actions are being taken to acquire to the Ministry of Justice a plot of land containing in extent 4 Acres from and out of the land containing in extent 16 Acres 1 Rood and 8 Perches situated at No. 111/3, Gangabada Road, Pahala Mapitigama, Mapitigama, Malwana to construct a Training Center for the judicial sector. Accordingly, it has been called for a valuation report to assess the value of the land.

In addition, the Urban Development Authority has initiated a project of shifting Court Complexes from urban areas to suburban areas. Accordingly, it has been proposed under the land exchange system to provide plots of lands that are under the control of the Urban Development Authority to the following Courts and preliminary arrangements are being taken accordingly.

01. Re-establishment of Court, Angunukolapelassa
02. Re-establishment of Court, Kurunegala
03. Re-establishment of Court, Mawanella and
04. Re-establishment of Court, Hambanthota

3.4.3. Obtaining of suitable buildings on rent basis for Courts, Institutes and Judges' Official Residences where no buildings are constructed.

Suitable buildings have been obtained on rent basis to house the following courts and institutions.

- Ministry of Justice
- International Arbitration Centre
- Provincial Civil Appellate High Court, Kurunegala
- District/Magistrate Court, Poogoda
- District/Magistrate Court, Theldeniya
- District/Magistrate Court, Morawaka
- Permanent High Court Trial at Bar, Labour Tribunal, Wattala
- Labour Tribunal, Matara
- Labour Tribunal, Galle
- Labour Tribunal, Rathmalana
- Labour Tribunal, Borella
- Labour Tribunal, Kurunegala
- Labour Tribunal, Thalawakele, Debt Conciliation Branch Board, Galle
- Debt Conciliation Board, Galle

- Office for Reparation and Office on Missing Persons
- Obtaining Buildings for Judges' Official Residences on lease or rent basis

Obtaining Judges' Official Residences on lease or rent basis (70 Official Residences)

District	Number of lease agreements drawn up				Total
	High Court/ Appellate Judges' Residences	Civil High Court Official	District/ Additional District Judges' Residences	Magistrates'/ Additional Magistrates' Residences	
Colombo	0		2	6	8
Awissawella	0		0	1	1
Rathanapura	1		4	3	8
kandy	3		2	2	7
Nuwara-Eliya	1		2	1	4
Galle	1		1	0	2
Tangalle	1		2	0	3
Kuliyapitiya	0		0	2	2
Kalutara	0		2	1	3
Anuradhapura	0		0	3	3
Kegalle	0		4	1	5
Gampaha	0		4	2	6
Chilaw	0		4	0	4
Panadura	0		4	2	6
Matale	0		2	1	3
Matara	0		0	1	1
Kurunegala	1		1	0	2
Polonnaruwa	0		2	0	2
Total	8		36	26	70

3.4.4 Values of lands and buildings in respect of which the process of acquisitions had been finalized have been referred to o estimate and enter into accounts (CIGAS).

1. District/Magistrate Court, Tissamaharamaya
2. District/Magistrate's Court, Balapitiya
3. District/Magistrate's Court, Kilinochchi
4. District/Magistrate's Court, Mahiyangana
5. High Court Judge's Official Residence, Rathanapura
6. District/Magistrate's Court, Theldeniya
7. District/Magistrate's Court, Gampola
8. District/Magistrate's Judge's Official Residence, Nawalapitiya
9. District/Magistrate's Court, Nawalapitiya
10. High Court, Gampaha

11. Civil Appellate High Court, Gampaha
12. District/Magistrate Court, Pothuvil
13. Magistrate Court, Akkareipattu
14. District Court, Samanthurai
15. Magistrate's Court, Samanthuarai
16. District/Magistrate's Court, Kalmunai
17. District/Magistrate's Court, Kaduwela
18. Quasi Court, Irakkamam
19. Magistrate's Court, Mahara
20. Land where the new High Court, Galle is being built.
21. Circuit Magistrate's Court, Kaluwanchikudi
22. 3 plots of land on which the Judges' Official Residence, Balapitiyais located.
23. Court Complex, Trincomalee
24. Magistrate's Court, Mawanella

3.5 ENGINEERING DIVISION

3.5.1. Introduction

Providing necessary facilities to the judicial system for efficient and effective administration of justice is one of the major responsibilities assigned to this Ministry. The key role of the Engineering Division is to provide new infrastructure facilities, improve and maintain the existing facilities.

Accordingly, many operations such as construction of new court complexes and buildings, construction of judges' quarters and repair and maintenance of them are performed under the coordination and supervision of this Division.

- a) The projects carried out by the Ministry are mainly implemented in several ways.
- Large-scale construction projects carried out under budget estimates
 - Construction projects carried out under the provisions made for small-scale projects in the budget estimates
 - Construction and renovation projects carried out under the provisions made through proposals
 - Renovation projects carried out using provision made under the expenditure head for renovation in the budget estimates.

Summary of the projects for this year is as follows.

	Revised provision for year 2022 (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs)	Financial Progress %
Large-scale projects	1794.60	502.03	27.97%
Small-scale construction projects	140	63.74	45.53%
Renovation projects	600	308.27	51.38%
<u>Under Budget Estimates</u>			
Expenditure head 110 - Court House	1365	643.29	47.13%
Expenditure head 228 -Three year project	963	350.23	36.38%
Total	4862.6	1867.56	38.41%

3.5.2 Projects completed during the period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Project	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	Expenditure in the year 2022 (Rs.)	Remarks
Construction of new building where the record room, production room, office are housed and of tower to place water tank of the Magistrate Court, Rambadagalla.	14.57	-	The amount spent is Rs. Million 12.78. The final bill has not been submitted.
Construction of production room, probation office, legal aid office, community-based corrections office and family counseling office of the District/Magistrate's Court, Pothuvil	23.02	2.70	The amount spent is Rs. Million 22.68. The final bill has not been submitted.
Construction of production room, probation office, legal aid office, community-based corrections office and family counseling Centre of the District/Magistrate Court, Akkareipaththu	21.89	0.49	The amount spent is Rs. Million 19.59. The final bill has not been submitted.
Construction of Magistrate's official residence, Naula	14.18	-	The amount spent is Rs. Million 14.29. The final bill has not been submitted.
Construction of Magistrate's official residence, Nawalapitiya	16.57	-	The amount spent is Rs. Million 16.47. The final bill has not been submitted.
Construction of High Court Judges bungalow, Embilipitiya	16.09	-	Expenditure is RS 16.25 Mn. Last bill worth Rs 6.15 Mn is sent to Accounting Division for the payment



Magistrate Court Building, Rambodagalla



District/Magistrate Court Building, Akkareipaththu



Judge's official residence, Naula



Court Building, Pothuvil

3.5.3 Projects started before 2022 and are under construction

In view of the current challenging economic situation, it has been decided to continue these projects subject to price fluctuations.

Project	Project Duration	Contract Amount (Rs. Million)	Accumulated expenditure as at 31.12.2021 (Rs. Million)	Revised provision for the year 2022 (Rs. Million)	Expenditure in the year 2022 (Rs. Million)	Financial Progress as at 30.09.2022 (%)	Physical progress as at 30.09.2022 (%)
Construction of Court Complex, Galle - Remaining work	2020-2022	996.84	327.81	218.44	102.00	46.69	49
Court Complex, Rathnapura	2018-2023	2,380.5	1,018.36	550	142.64	25.93	85.6
Construction of Court Complex, Welimada	2019-2022	428.72	242.58	250	28.65	11.46	75

Court Complex, Theldeniya	2019-2022	307.25	99.53	75	34.75	46.33	52
Court Complex, Poogoda	2018-2022	377.8	113.27	60	14.37	23.95	30
Construction of Court Complex, Kanthale	2021-2024	263.81	46.05	90	64.59	71.76	10.10
New Court Building, Wakare	2020-2022	50.02	28.91	10	7.05	70.5	80
New Court Building, Helboda	2020-2022	51.23	24.52	8	3.16	39.5	80
Construction of a new office building for the Circuit Magistrate's Court, Narammala	2020-2022	31.28	24.93	15	8.65	57.66	96
Twin official residence, Chilaw	2020-2022	31.10	16.24	15	-	0	60
Twin official residence, Panadura	2021-2023	34.56	11.47	10	1.28	12.8	60
Twin official residence, Baticaloa	2021-2023	36.78	12.46	12	8.84	73.66	62
Twin official residence, Kurunegala	2021-2022	39.90	5.29	10	2.07	20.7	65
Twin official residence, Embilipitiya	2021-2022	34.77	10.15	10	4.14	41.4	70
Renovation of Judicial Service Commission office building	2021-2022	113.32	32.67	25	-	0	30
Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Nikaweratiya	2021-2022	107.94	46.52	60	25.48	42.46	68
Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Puththalam	2021-2022	122.82	24.56	90	41.95	46.61	65
Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Samanthurei	2021-2022	44.65	14.35	30	8.31	27.7	66
Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Manampitiya	2021-2022	49.96	8.51	40	21.28	53.2	80
Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Kuchchaweli	2021-2022	73.08	24.74	50	19.56	39.12	50
Construction of record room and production room of the District Court, Bandarawela	2021-2022	32.92	8.84	25	5.95	23.8	50
Construction of new court building, Wellawaya	2021-2022	58.81	9.57	40	2.52	6.3	35

Construction of District/Magistrate's Court, Hingurakgoda	2021-2022	104.40	-	100	25.31	25.31	10
Construction of Court building, Dambulla	2021-2022	60.90	16.48	60	6.48	27	20
Construction of Court Complex, Mathale	2021-2023	561.47	143.25	120	43.41	26	14.25

3.5.4 Projects started construction in the year 2022

Project	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	Expenditure up to 30.09.2022 (Rs.)	Physical Progress
Construction of court building, Walapane *	320.50	72.10	4.65%
District/ Magistrate's Court, Maho	35.07	14.66	55%
Construction of a building for the District Court, Dehiatathkandiya	69.00	13.16	8%
Construction of District/ Magistrate's Court, Kekirawa	112.59	25.97	12%
Construction of Pre-fabricated court building, Walachchenai	149.82	52.03	28%
Construction of Judge's official residence, Kalmunai	37.50	15.23	10%
Construction of Court Building, Monaragala	101.26	20.55	40%
Construction of Circuit Magistrate's Court building, Kalawana	34.66	-	20%
Construction of a new building for District/Magistrate's Court, Warakapola	80.61	-	1%
Construction of court buildings, Bakamuna	33.86	3.84	10%
Locating of pre-fabricated two buildings removed from House of Justice Project Location, at New Court Premises, Matara	12.20	6.55	90%

*However, since the construction of this court and the repair work of the existing court are essential, it has been decided to slow the construction work of this complex until the economic situation will be back to normalcy.

3.5.5 Renovation projects

Projects implemented under High Courts procurement in the year 2022

High Court Zone	Approved provision Rs. Million					Expenditure as at 30.09. 2022 (Rs. Million)
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter3	Quarter4	Total	
Ampara	-	0.2	-	-	0.2	0.00
Anuradhapura	0.6	10	5	2	17.6	14.8
Awissawella	-	0.007	-	-	0.007	0.007
Badulla	0.022	-	0.08	-	0.1	0.1
Batticaloa	-	-	1	-	1	0
Colombo	13.8	22.2	35.4	0.2	71.6	52
Chilaw	1.6	0.2	-	-	1.8	0.21
Galle	0.51	8.3	22.5	24.6	55.9	19.6
Gampaha	0.6	0.18	1.77	2.5	5.05	0.86
Homagama	-	4.3	2.5	2.2	9	0.00
Jaffna	0.03	0.38	-	1.17	1.58	0.3
Kalmunai	-	0.86	-	-	0.86	0.6
Kaluthara	1.2	0.26	2.5	1.1	5.06	2.5
Kandy	1.3	-	0.96	-	2.2	2.3
Kegalle	0.9	-	0.9	-	1.8	1.8
Kurunegala	0.9	9.5	2.5	-	12.9	4.4
Matara	0.1	14.9	1.8	-	16.8	15.9
Monaragala	-	-	-	-	-	0
Negambo	0.04	0.9	0.78	-	1.7	0.56
Nuwara-Eliya	-	-	0.01	-	0.01	0.01
Polonnaruwa	0.039	-	0.027	-	0.066	0.067
Puttalam	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Rathanapura	-	0.048	-	-	0.048	0.035
Tangalle	0.7	0.3	0.005	-	0.005	1
Trincomalee	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Vavuniya	1.6	-	-	-	1.6	1.6
Total	23.94	72.53	77.63	33.77	207.97	118.69

Projects implemented under the Ministry procurement (Running from 2021 to 2022)

Project	Estimated expenditure (Rs. Million)	Expenditure as at 31.12.2022 (Rs. Million)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Million)	Physical progress(100%)
Renovation of High Court Complex, Ampara	8.00	-	4.2	85%
Renovation of Court Complex, Anuradhapura	31.1	10.4	17	70%
Renovation of Court Complex, Awissawella	6.8	6.5	1.4	100%
Renovation of Civil Appellate High Court Complex, Badulla	4.9	1	3.8	100%
Renovation of High Court and District Court, Badulla	3.4	2.1	0	100%
Renovation in the open court of the District Court, Bandarawela	3.2	1.4	0	100%
Renovation of District/Magistrate 's Court, Walachchenai	1.7	1.8	0	100%
Renovation of High Court, Batticaloa	3.5	1.7	0.17	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Marawila	10.6	10.9	0.74	100%
Renovation of High Court, Chilaw	3.9	2.6	1.1	100%
Renovation of High Court and District Court, Galle	6.7	-	0	0%
Renovation of Civil Appellate High Court Complex, Gampaha	6.2	1.4	1.9	90%
Renovation of Civil Appellate High Court Complex, Gampaha	1.8	-	0.69	20%
Renovation of Court Complex, Mahara	12.1	-	2.8	40%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Mahara	15.3	14.1	1.5	100%
Upgrading the existing Magistrate's Court building, Mahara to elevate it to a District Court	0.6	0.49	0	100%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Aththanagalla	11.8	-	2.6	40%
Renovation of District Court, Aththanagalla	2.5		1.5	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Jaffna	27.1	15.7	0	55%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Akkareipaththu	5.8	4.3	0	100%
Renovation of Magistrate 's Court, Samanthurai	5.1	5.4	1	100%
Renovation of High Court Complex, Kalmunai	8.7	8.9	2.2	100%
Renovation of Civil Appellate High Court Complex, Kaluthara	2.6	1.6	1	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Kandy	28.5	22.4	1.1	100%

Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Dambulla	14.6	-	0.85	20%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Mawanella	7.1	2	3.4	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Kegalle	24.3	6.6	0	0%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Warakapola	21	16.6	11.7	100%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court Complex, Hettipola	10.1	8.4	3.3	100%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court Complex, Rambodagalla	1.2	1	0.12	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Kuliypitiya	21.1	6.7	3.7	40%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Pillessa	5.2	3.5	0	100%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Wariyapola	2.7	-	0.54	40%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Narammala	2.6	-	1.8	100%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Daiyandara	6.1	3.9	0	100%
Renovation of District/ Magistrate's Court, Minuwangoda	20.7	5	8.6	65%
Renovation of Court Complex, Negambo	12.3	-	0	0%
Renovation of District Court, Welisara	2.3		0	70%
Renovation of Court Complex, Nuwara-Eliya	5.7	2.5	3.7	100%
Renovation of District/Magistrate's Court, Hingurakgoda	10.6	10.2	2.1	100%
Renovation of High Court, Polonnaruwa	17.7	-	16.5	85%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Anamaduwa	3	3.1	0.15	100%
Renovation of Circuit Magistrate's Court, Kalpitiya	2.3	2.5	0	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Puttalam	9.3	8.1	1.9	100%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Kalawana	5.7	6.1	0.75	100%
Renovation of Court Complex, Embilipitiya	15.1	-	10.3	75%
Renovation of Magistrate's Court, Balangoda	11	5.8	5.2	85%
Renovation of District/ Magistrate's Court, Walasmulla	5.4	3.5	9.45	96%
Renovation of Court Complex, Hulftsdorp	986.8	151.3	178.9	56%

3.5.6 Future Plans

The use of public funds should be done very responsibly in the challenging situation prevailing in the current Sri Lankan economy giving priority to the basic needs of the public, and it has been decided in compliance with National Budget Circular No. 03/2022 issued on the subject of controlling public expenditure, to temporarily stop the projects scheduled to be started in this year and the projects started earlier until the economic situation will be at the stage of recovery. Accordingly, it has been planned to temporarily stop the remaining construction works save and except the construction works shown physical progress at present and can be serviceable after completion and as well as the construction works in respect of which the damage could be minimized by way of doing certain construction to the existing constructions.

01. House of Justice Project

This project consists of 04 stages, namely,

- Construction of Magistrate Court Complex - Temporary stop after construction of up to three floors enabling to be serviceable.
- Construction of High Court and District Court Complex and Ministry of Justice building Complex -Temporarily stop after applying safety measures to prevent damage to pilings that have been completed. (For this purpose, a Cabinet Memorandum is being prepared stating the amount of provision required in 2023.)
- Official residential complex - Construction work has been temporarily stopped .

02. Construction of official residence, Muttur

03. Construction of official residence, Kalmunai

04. Court Building, Kinniya

05. Court Building, Nochchiyagama

06. Construction of Court Building, Kalpitiya

07. Construction of Court Building, Monaragala

08. Construction of Court Buildings, Bakamuna

09. Construction of Court Buildings, Kuliypitiya

10. Construction of Court Buildings, Chilaw

11. Construction of Court Buildings, Dambulla

12. Construction of Circuit Magistrate's Court Building, Kalawana

13. Construction of Pre-fabricated Court Building, Embilipitiya

14. Construction of Court Complex, Matale

15. Construction of Additional Magistrate's Court, Marawila

16. Construction of new building of District/Magistrate's Court, Warakapola

17. Construction of a new building for District/Magistrate's Court, Hatton
18. Construction of Court, Nuwara-Eliya
19. Construction of a new building for the Court, Horana
20. Construction of Court Complex, Mount Lavinia
21. Construction of a new building for the Court, Kandy
22. Construction of District/ Magistrate's Court, Mawanella
23. Construction of Court, Mathugama
24. Construction of Court, Passara
25. Construction of Court, Pelmadulla
26. Construction of a building for the Court, Kegalle
27. Construction of a building for the Court, Batticaloa
28. Construction of a building for the Court, Kaduwela
29. Construction of a building for the Court, Aththanagalla
30. Construction of a building for the Court, Minuwangoda
31. Construction of a building for the New Court, Awissawella
32. Construction of Court Complex, Trincomalee
33. Construction of Court Complex, Kaluthara
34. Construction of Court Complex, Morawaka
35. Repair the rear part of the building where the High Court and the District Court, Galle are located
36. Construction of proposed new Civil Appellate High Court, Balapitiya
37. Renovation of Court Complex, Baddegama
38. Renovation and upgrading of old Magistrate's Court, Negombo
39. Renovation of Circuit Bungalow, Rakwana
40. Renovation of High Court, Hambanthota

Providing
Consultancy
services

Renovation
projects

3.6 REFORMS DIVISION

In line with the accelerated reforms program of the Ministry of Justice, the Reforms division was established in 2020 with a view to coordinating all reforms related activities of the Ministry.

Subsequently, a dedicated unit named Special Unit was also established under the Reforms division under the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to expedite the law reforms ,infrastructure development and digitization. Accordingly, the Reforms division has been trusted with the responsibilities relating to the following areas;

Special Unit

- Subcommittee on Criminal Law Reforms
- Subcommittee on Civil Law Reforms
- Subcommittee on Commercial Law Reforms
- Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development
- Subcommittee on Digitization and Court Automation

Foreign Funded Projects Coordination Unit

- USAID Effective and Efficient Justice Activity Project (EEJ)
- EU Justice Reforms Program (JURE)
- EU Supporting Effective Dispute Resolution Project (SEDR)
- Strengthening Reconciliation Project / SCOPE
- USAID SCORE Project (Reconciliation)
- KOICA – Capacity Building of Forensic Drug Analysis at GAD

Appointments Unit

- Justice of the Peace
- Commissioner for Oaths
- Sudden Death Inquirer
- Unofficial Magistrate
- Sworn Translator

Special Projects / Assignments

- Court Automation Project
- Video Conferencing Project
- Court Visit Project
- Operationalization of the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre

3.6.1 Special Unit

Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee

- ❖ The draft bill regarding the Section 154A of the Civil Procedure Code has been gazette
- ❖ Cabinet Memorandum regarding the Section 167 of the Civil Procedure Code was sent to the Cabinet for policy approval
- ❖ Digital Law Committee finalized several chapters of the Proposed Digital Law Act

Advisory Committee to Review the Process of Service of Summons and the Writ Execution	The Committee reverted there with their final observations of the amended draft of the CPC section on Issuance and Service of Summons and the same was forwarded to the MOJ
Advisory Committee to Review Probation and Foster Parent Law	The Committee is in the process of finalizing the report
Advisory Committee to Review the Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgment Ordinance	Submitted the Final Report to the Minister
Advisory Committee to Review Notaries Ordinance	*Revocation of Irrevocable Deeds of Gift on the ground of gross ingratitude Act and Wills Ordinance have now been gazette
	*It was agreed to introduce minor amendments to certain provisions of the Notaries Ordinance
	*Cabinet Memorandum is being prepared to seek approval to gazette of the Registration of Documents Act
	*Power of Attorney Ordinance was ready to be sent to the Cabinet as at 20.04.2022
Advisory Committee to Review the Family Law	*The final LD draft of the Prevention of Fraud Ordinance has been received
	*The Committee received the final draft of the Recognition of Foreign Divorce Act for which observations have now been sent to the LD Department
Advisory Committee to Review the Debt Conciliation Ordinance	*The Committee has sent the finalized bill of the Marriage Registration Ordinance to the MOJ which is sent to the LD Department
	The Committee is awaiting the final draft from the LD Department
Advisory Committee to Review the Rent Law	The Committee is awaiting for the final draft

Advisory Committee to Review the Condominium Law	Drafting the report
Advisory Committee to Review the Partition Law	The Committee are awaiting the final draft from the Legal Draftsman
Advisory Committee to Review the Law on Title Registration	The final report has submitted to the MOJ and the Symposium on Advisory Committee was postponed
Advisory Committee on Land Law	
Advisory Committee to Review Recover the Possession of Lands Expeditiously	Awaiting for the observations of the committee members of draft of the Act to provide for recovery of Possession of Lands
Advisory Committee to Review the Media Regulation and Privacy Law	Dissolved

Commercial Law Reforms Sub-Committee

Advisory Committee to Review the E-Commerce Law	Working through the list of tasks
Expert Panel on Maritime Law Reforms	Working through the list of tasks
Advisory Committee to Review the Labor Law	Implementing the initial recommendations
Panel of Experts on Law Reforms Pertaining to Intellectual Property Law in Sri Lanka	The Advisory Committee has been given a further TOR and mandate to draft the necessary reforms to the respective laws
Expert Panel on Company Law Reforms	Currently in the process of drafting
Expert Committee on reform of the Law relating arbitration in Sri Lanka	The Committee is awaiting the finalized proposals
Expert Panel on Banking and Finance Law Reforms	Currently in the process of drafting

Criminal Law Reforms Sub-Committee

Proposal	Status
Proposed amendments to the Financial Transactions Reporting Act No. 6 of 2006	The observations of the Committee were sought on the basis of the directive given by the Cabinet of Ministers to submit the observations of the Ministry of Justice on a Cabinet Memorandum submitted by the Finance Ministry. The Observations of the Committee was sent to the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) & to the Finance Ministry for consideration.
Proposed amendments for the PODD.	The observations of the Committee also had been considered in the preparation of the draft. Cabinet Memorandum had been submitted seeking approval to Gazette and present same in Parliament.
Statutory Rape	The observations of the Committee also had been considered in the preparation of the draft. Further directives given by the Cabinet of Ministers upon the submission of the Cabinet Memorandum seeking approval to Gazette, are being reviewed at present.
Prohibition of obscene Publications Bill	Observations of the Committee had been considered in the drafting stage and a further meeting to be convened with certain stakeholders to discuss the draft further in early April.
Proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code –Pre Trial	The law was enacted and certain observations of the Committee was also considered and included.
New legislation to replace the Assistance to and protection of victims of crime & witnesses.	The observations of the Committee were also considered and awaiting the Constitutionality certificate from the Hon. Attorney General.
Criminal Procedure Code Act Amendment Act No. 15 of 1979 (Dispensing with the requirement of personal attendance of suspect /accused person in Court under certain identified circumstances)	The proposals of the Committee are being considered.
Dangerous Animals Ordinance.	Awaiting the Cabinet decision on the Cabinet Memorandum seeking approval to gazette and present the Bill in Parliament.
Cruelty to Animals Ordinance	The Cabinet Memorandum sent was withdrawn by the Hon. MJ on the basis that the proposed Animal Welfare Law repeals the Cruelty to Animals Ordinance. (A copy of the Animal Welfare Law was shared with the Criminal Law Reforms Sub Committee)

Hotel Keepers Liabilities Ordinance	The observations of the Committee were sent to the Tourism Ministry for their consideration which is the relevant line Ministry for the subject. The Tourism Ministry has drawn the attention of the Tourism Authority of the aforesaid proposals and has informed the MOJ that they will consider the proposals in the process of amending the respective Ordinance.
Proposed amendments to the Bail Act	Cabinet Memorandum to be submitted in due course.
Recommendations made to amend the Immigration and Emigration Act.	Referred to the relevant Department for their consideration.
Proposed amendments to the Antiquities Ordinance	Upon drawing the attention of the Department of Archeology on the proposed amendments the respective institution does not agree to proceed on same.
Proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Act	Observations given was forwarded to the State Ministry of Women's Affairs which is the line Ministry. The Civil Law Reforms Sub Committee too has forwarded observations on same. A meeting was convened at the MOJ to discuss the observations on the request of the State Ministry of Women's Affairs. The State Ministry has forwarded the draft Bill to the Hon. Attorney General seeking the Constitutionality Certificate to move forward.
Proposed amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code	1 st draft of the proposed amendment was forwarded to the Chairman of the Special Committee to propose amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure & the Penal Code. Latest draft was also referred.

Infrastructure Development Sub-Committee

- Supporting for the amendments of the Code of Criminal Procedure
- Proposed to set up another Additional Court House in New Court Complex in Matara
- Proposed to build a Lawyer's Office Complex in Rathnapura Court Complex
- Identifying issues pertain to infrastructure in the Court Complexes
- Observing issues pertaining to legal infrastructure

Digitization and Court Automation Sub-Committee

- Discussing the possibility of establishing a monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Digitization project
- Discussing possible measures that could be adopted to encourage the regional bars to adopt virtual hearing

3.6.2 Foreign Funded Project

Foreign Funded Project Coordination Unit A comprehensive document on the areas where the assistance of the International Development Partners could be obtained, was formulated and the ‘International Development Partner Dialogue’ was successfully conducted on 01.04.2021 at Hilton Colombo with the participation of distinguished guests such as Hon. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Education, Hon. M.U.M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice, Hon. Attorney General as well as the representatives of relevant Diplomatic Missions and International Development Partners. Follow-up meetings are conducted regularly, and the Reforms division of the Ministry of Justice is closely monitoring the implementation of the foreign funded projects.

Following the International Development Partner Dialogue, one-to-one meetings with each and every international development partner was held to ensure a continuous dialogue with them. Further, some major projects implemented under the purview of the Ministry are closely monitored by this unit.

Project Name	Project	Estimated cost	Project Duration	Current Status	Project Outcome
USAID - EEJ	Efficient and Effective Justice Project	US\$ 15 Mn	5 Years 2022-2026	Signing the Implementation letter	Objectives: Strengthening the administration of justice. Strengthening qualifications and professionalism of justice sector actors.
USAID - SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Project	US\$ 19 Mn	5 Years 2018 - 2023	Implementation letter signed and project is currently functioning.	1. Promote a cohesive Sri Lankan identity 2. Reduce socio-economic disparities 3. Enhance community resilience

EU - JURE	Justice Reforms Program	EUR 18 Mn (EU) & EUR 1 Mn (UN) UNDP: 11m Euros UNICEF: 6m Euros	4.5 Years 2022 - 2026	Inception Phase Stakeholder Consultations Ongoing (bilateral & thematic) Prioritization of interventions & intervention strategy Crisis-related support extended	Outcome 1: Improved access to justice for all, in particular women, the poor and persons in vulnerable situations Outcome 2: Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system Outcome 3: Improved efficiency and quality of justice
EU -SCOPE	Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace in Sri Lanka	EUR 11 Mn (8 Mn EU, 3 Mn AA)	3 Years 2022 - 2025	Submitted the PSF to NPD for recommendations. (Amendments and discussions going on regarding the same)	1. Strengthened community and institutional resilience and capacities in response to violence and exclusion 2. Strengthened pluralistic, inclusive and fact-based public discourse 3. Increased economic incentives and opportunities for inter-ethnic collaboration
EU - SEDR	Supporting Effective Dispute Resolution (SEDR) Mediation Board Commission (comes under STRIDE Project)	EUR 7 Mn	2020-2024	Cab Memo - Financial support from EU for MBC	Support Ministry of Justice and Mediation Boards Commission (MBC) The National Mediation Program

KOICA	Strengthen Capacity Building of Forensic Drug Analysis in the Criminal Justice System in SL	US\$ 4 Mn	4 Years 2021 - 2024	project is currently functioning	01. Enhancing laboratory equipment in the Narcotic Drug and Forensic Toxicology Lab 02. Providing trainings in narcotic drug and forensic toxicology 03. Digitalizing analysis process and evidence management
JICA	Strengthening Equitable Access to Justice in Sri Lanka	JPY 60 Mn		PSF submitted to NPD	
PR 01	Construction of 2889 Rain Water Harvesting Tanks in Jaffna District	SLR 299,011,991	signed for 3 years (2017) extend - 2024	Cab Memo - MOU extension	
ICRC	Infrastructural projects			project is currently functioning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and Implementation of International Humanitarian Law • Collaboration with on living conditions and treatment of persons deprived of liberty • Technical support on issue of missing persons • Emotional, livelihood and referral support to families of missing persons

UNODC	Promoting the Remote Functioning of the Justice System in Sri Lanka: Virtual Trials and Mobile Courts	US\$ 520000	2020 - 2022	project is currently functioning.	<p>Ongoing Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening Trans-regional Action and Responses against the Smuggling of Migrants (STARSOM)/ Canada/ Mar 2021- Dec 2022/ USD 200,000 2. Strengthened Administration of Justice Process - Enhanced access to justice and legal assistance for Women /PBF/ Dec 2020- June 2022/ USD 350,000 3. Support to COVID-19 Infection Management for People in Prison and Persons with drug use disorders /INL/Sept. 2020 –Aug 2022/ USD 500,000 4. Promoting the Remote Functioning of the Justice System in Sri Lanka: Virtual Trials and Mobile Courts /INL/April 2021 – Jan 2023/ USD 1,200,000 5. Improve the capacity of the MLE agencies and criminal justice authorities in Sri Lanka to detect, investigate and prosecute maritime crime, by conducting legal trainings for criminal justice authorities /INL/Oct 2021 – April 2023/ USD 45,000
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ADB	Strengthening the Efficiency of the Justice sector with a Focus on Commercial Law, Investment and contract enforcement			MOJ with ADB wishes to organize these discussions and reviews by way of few moderated residential workshops. The discussions would be held close-door and the expected outcome would be a stakeholder agreed Strategic Action Plan (SAP) capable of sector wide implementations.	
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3.6.3 Appointments Unit

Justice of the Peace

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Hon. Minister of Justice under the Judicature Act no. 2 of 1978.

Commissioner for Oaths

Attorneys-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka are appointed as Commissioners of Oaths by the Hon. Minister of Justice under Section 12(1) of the Oaths Ordinance. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, steps were taken to facilitate the applicants to apply for the post of Commissioner for Oaths through the Website of the Ministry of Justice and to publish the lists of the appointees on the website.

Commissioner for Oaths

Attorneys-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka are appointed as Commissioners of Oaths by the Hon. Minister of Justice under Section 12(1) of the Oaths Ordinance. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, steps were taken to facilitate the applicants to apply for the post of Commissioner for Oaths through the Website of the Ministry of Justice and to publish the lists of the appointees on the website.

Sudden Death Inquirer

Sudden Death Inquirers are appointed by the Hon. Minister of Justice under Section 108 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act to conduct the Inquests relating to sudden deaths. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was unable to conduct interviews to fill the vacancies, but the steps were taken to appoint Inquirers on temporary basis. Further, a database of all Inquirers was created and published on the Website of the Ministry of Justice and an Online Complaint Management System was introduced to entertain the complaints from public against the Sudden Death Inquirers.

Unofficial Magistrate

Unofficial Magistrates are appointed by the Hon. Minister of Justice on the recommendations of the High Court Judges.

Sworn Translators

Sworn Translators are appointed on the results of a written examination

New Appointments Between 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Appointments	Amount
Justice of the Peace	2434
Commissioner for Oaths	348
Sudden Death Inquirer	16
Unofficial Magistrate	18
Sworn Translators	167

3.6.4 Special Projects / Assignments

Court Automation Project

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Technology, Judicial Service Commission and the Information and Communication Technology Agency, in February 2021 to initiate the Court Automation Project. The Ministry of Justice successfully concluded the procurement process for the Court Automation Project which is aimed at fully - automating the court proceedings with an e- 8 filing system, case management system and a case transcription system. After a prequalification process the Invitation for Bid (IFB) document was issued to the pre-qualified bidders.

100 courthouses will be covered under the Pilot phase and Phase II of the project. It is expected to cover rest of the courthouses in the Phase III of the project. The Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka provides the consultancy for this project.

During the year 2021, Stakeholder Consultation Workshops were held with the relevant stakeholders such as the Judicial Service Commission, Judges, Registrars, Police Department, Prisons Department, Government Analyst Department, Bar Association of Sri Lanka etc. Adopting an innovative approach, the pre-qualification responses were accepted online and many meetings of the Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee as well as the Technical Evaluation Committee were held virtually. Several stakeholder consultation workshops also held as virtual workshops.

Video Conferencing Project

As per the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, a contract was awarded to the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka to setup video conferencing facility between 23 court houses and 12 prisons locations. Under this project, identified courts and prisons will be connected through the Lanka Government Network and a Video Conferencing solution will be hosted at the Lanka Government Cloud.

Court Automation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cabinet Memorandum was submitted on 03rd February 2022 to grant the approval of the Cabinet Ministers to award the contract of the procurement.• It was approved by the Cabinet Decision which was dated on 21st February 2022.• Post qualification demonstration was held on 16th March 2022 and presented by Joint Venture of Dialog Broadband Networks (Pvt) Limited.• In-progress of preparing the awareness statement for the suspension of the project due to the current financial situation in the country under the section 3-ii of the Budget Circular No. 03/2022 dated on 26.04.2022.
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Video Conferencing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOJ and Ministry of Technology was decided to scale down the project to mitigate the cost increase due to currency fluctuation. • Awaiting for the recommendations from the TEC for the revised proposal for the Video Conference Project. • Seeking for the donor support.
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Court Visit Project

In order to identify the immediate renovation and equipment requirements of the Courts, the Ministry of Justice, with the approval of the Judicial Service Commission, launched a special program to visit each and every court and identify the immediate requirements. Under this program, all staff officers of the Ministry of Justice were deployed to visit the Courts. The first phase of the program has been concluded now and immediate furniture and equipment requirements of 10 Judicial Zones was fulfilled immediately.

The Ministry of Justice provided furniture and office equipment worth 40 million LKR. In the meantime, the immediate renovations identified by the program are being carried out through the relevant Divisional Secretaries

Operationalization of the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre

The Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre will be promoted as an independent and self-sustaining entity with a management partnership of a well experienced partner. It is expected to serve the arbitration requirements of the Port city in future. Expressions of Interest was invited from the interested parties and the Cabinet of Ministers appointed a special official committee to decide on the best management model to be adopted. In the meantime, discussions were held with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission to explore the possibility of initiating a mutually beneficial partnership in this regard. Accordingly, the Colombo Port City Economic Commission agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Justice, to initiate a partnership in order to establish an International Commercial Dispute Resolution Centre in the Sri Lanka International Arbitration Centre. Accordingly, an MOU was signed between the Colombo Port City Economic Commission and the Ministry of Justice recently with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.

3.7 PRISON REFORMS DIVISION

3.7.1 Introduction

While undergoing a comprehensive reform of the prison administration and addressing the job-related issues of the prison officers, the Prison Affairs Division accounts for formulating, monitoring and following-up of necessary policies to streamline the rehabilitation process with the aim of reintegrating the prisoners into society as good citizens when they are released. Further, the Division carries out the formulation, monitoring and following up of policies required for the expansion of community corrections system, which is the main option identified for the prison overcrowding, as well as rehabilitation of those who are addicted to drugs and referred to the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation by the courts as useful persons to the society, and formulation, monitoring and following up of policies required for enhancing economic, social and welfare activities to make their lives successful after the rehabilitation period and socialization. Accordingly, the following tasks are implemented by this Division.

- I. Prison reform affairs
- II. Affairs of releasing prisoners on licence
- III. Affairs on prisoners who have violated the license conditions.
- IV. Affairs relevant to sending prisoners home leave.
- V. Submission of files of young offenders to be released for parole approval.
- VI. Proceedings involving young offenders who have breached conditions.
- VII. Activities related to acquiring, vesting and repossession and release of land related to prisons and rehabilitation centers.
- VIII. Affairs related to the constructions of the Department of Prisons, Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.
- IX. Affairs related to the deciding of deposits of the prison officials.
- X. Affairs related to requests of the prisoners.
- XI. Affairs on Visiting Committees of Prison Institutions
- XII. Activities related to submission of review reports of the prisoners.
- XIII. Preparation of a review system and a mechanism for granting special pardon to minimize overcrowding of prisoners and activities of releasing prisoners and reducing the sentence period accordingly.
- XIV. Monitoring of the activities for development of a comprehensive system for the rehabilitation of prisoners and drug addicts.
- XV. Progress review and follow up activities relevant to the development projects implemented under the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.
- XVI. All organizational and disciplinary affairs of officers related to Department of Prisons, Department of Community Based Corrections and Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation that are coming under the purview of the Ministry.

3.7.2 30.01.2022 to 30.09.2022 progress

3.7.2.1 Relocation of the prisons established in the centre of the cities to outlying areas.

Arrangements are being made to relocate the Welikada Prison Complex, which has a very high inmate population, to the Millawa area of Horana Divisional Secretariat in Kalutara District. Under this project, Welikada Prison, Magazine Prison, Colombo Remand Prison, Women's Prison and Prison Hospital are planned to be established on the said land. Necessary arrangements are being made to establish the Prison Headquarters in Battaramulla area. This project is jointly implemented by the Urban Development Authority, Prison Department and this Ministry.

The relocation project of Tangalle Prison to Angunakolapelessa has been successfully completed. An amount of Rs.4656 Million has been spent on this project.

3.7.2.1 Establishment of a mechanism to grant special pardon.

In order to reduce the overcrowding of prisoners, in addition to the policy process of granting of general pardon, a mechanism to grant special pardon has been formulated through a review system. Under this, the information of the prisoners who were eligible for release or reduction of the sentence and the reports of the prisoners who have been recommended for death sentence to be commuted into life imprisonment have been forwarded to the Attorney General's Department through this Ministry.

3.7.2.1.1 Directing of specially identified inmates to high security prisons

One of the main challenges faced by the Department of Prisons as well as this Ministry was the governing of crimes, drug trafficking, extortion and other illegal activities by the inmates in the prisons. By now, the illegal activities have been well controlled and the inmates identified as carrying out such activities have been transferred to Boossa Prison and kept in high security cells. In particular, action have been taken to detain inmates who have been known for doing illegal activities in prisons constructed with security measures such as Agunakolapalassa under the supervision and protection of prison officers and Police Special Task Force officers. Similarly, arrangements have been made to control the use of mobile phones in Agunakolapelassa, Boossa and other prisons.

3.7.2.4 Establishment of Weerawila Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

This ministry has identified the increasing number of inmates who are imprisoned having addicted to drugs as the main reason for overcrowding in prisons. In this circumstances, it has become a challenge to implement formal treatment and rehabilitation programs for persons who are convicted of drug addiction. As a remedy, a Treatment and Rehabilitation Center has been established in the Weerawila Prison for persons who are convicted of drug addiction. Rs. 11.5 million has been spent for this by August 31, 2022.

3.7.2.5 Release of prisoners on licence, and commutation of sentences of prisoners on good behavior

Granting of release for a large number of prisoners who had performed their rehabilitation activities perfectly with good behavior was done in the year 2022. Accordingly, the prisoners were released on licence, the sentences of the prisoners were reduced on the basis of good behavior and also the prisoners were sent on home leave.

Serial No.	How the sentence was commuted	No. of persons released 01.01.2022-30.09.2022
1.	Release on licence	42
2.	Sending home leave	247
3.	Release on good behavior	227
4.	Release of prisoners to mark significant days	1017
Total		1533

3.7.7 Constructions of the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation

The following construction works of the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation have been completed in the year 2022.

Serial No.	Construction	Total Expenditure (Rs.)
1.	Service of completion of the Kandakadu Hospital	2,532,196.96
2.	Service of completing 03 toilet systems at the Kandakadu Center	1,849,750.00
3.	Construction of Police Hostel at Senapura Centre	15,777,000.00
4.	Construction of a bathing area for rehabilitating persons at the Senapura Centre	18,735,000.00
5.	Renovation of the Head Office and the Logistics office at the Senapura Centre	3,444,000.00
6.	Construction of security fence around Irahandaketuwewa rehabilitation site	3,884,271.00

3.7.8 Reforms of the prison administration

Since the need to rearrange the services provided by the Department of Prisons in relation to the current needs and to restructure the entire Department had been recognized previously, interviews had been completed for filling 05 vacancies of the post of Commissioner of Prisons and forwarded the relevant files to the Public Service Commission, and interviews had been conducted and completed for the recruitment of 18 persons for the post of Assistant Superintendent of Prisons (Discipline).in 2022 as a measure of recruiting staff with professional qualifications.

3.7.9 Future Plan

1. On the unrest condition occurred at the Mahara Prison on November 29, 2020, the office of the Superintendent of Prisons, adjacent building, welfare building, main store, prison hospital and kitchen equipment were destroyed. The five-member committee appointed to investigate this unrest condition has submitted its recommendations under the three points namely recommendations for preventing prison overcrowding, recommendations for the welfare of inmates and recommendations for prison administration. Among the recommendations for prison administration, it has been recommended that offices, stores, and dispensaries that are located within the prison should be installed outside the area where inmates are detained of the prison grounds so as to reduce possible damages if such a situation has arisen again. Accordingly, approval has been obtained from the Department of National Planning to establish the destroyed buildings on an outside area of the prison grounds and it is planned to be implemented in the year 2023.
2. Many complaints have been received due to the informal disposal of waste water from prison institutions, the ecosystems surrounding the areas where those institutions are located have been affected. This situation has also led to arise issues on hygiene of the prisoners. As a solution to this situation, it is planned to commence a project to construct sewage and wastewater transportation systems in the prisons in 2023.
3. As a solution to the shortage of officers in the Department of Prisons, it is expected to conduct interviews for filling vacancies of the posts of Superintendent of Prisons and the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons (Rehabilitation), and to get approval for the Schemes of Recruitment for the posts of Class II Jailor, Class II Rehabilitation Officer and Assistant Superintendent of Prisons as well as Assistant Superintendent of Prisons (Rehabilitation) compiled in terms of the Public Administration Circular 06/2006.
4. Community-based correction has been introduced as an alternative solution to reduce prison overcrowding. By directing minor offenders for community-based corrections, occupation, family and social status of that person would be secured. Mental and physical health will be improved and as there is no imprisonment, the offenders will not be confronted with other grave offenders, so they can be prevented from becoming organized criminals. Therefore, this Ministry is working towards to use the Department of Community Based Corrections in a more provable manner to reduce prison overcrowding. Under this, it is expected to increase the number of community correction orders up to 15,000 in the year 2023.

3.8 NATIONAL INTEGRATION DIVISION

3.8.1 Introduction

1. Duties and functions of the National Integration Division.

- i. Promotion of national integration, reconciliation, and long-lasting peace in the country and formulation of a national policy framework to accomplish that objectives.
- ii. Identification of impediments prevailed against the establishment of national integration and coordination of inter-ministerial and departmental approaches to collaborate Ministries, Departments, and Establishments so as to ensure this effort.
- iii. Monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects at the field level.
- iv. Introduction and implementation of conversational programmes necessary for the establishment of cooperation and co-existence among racial groups.
- v. Provision of necessary facilities to make mutual understanding of cultural, social, and religious background among races by way of accessing official languages and link language.

2. Project implemented by the National Integration Division

The National Integration Division conducts programmes to protect heritages, identities cultures of all ethnic groups and different races living in the Sri Lankan society by introducing and implementing programmes necessary for the cooperation and co-existence among racial groups and providing necessary facilities to make mutual understanding of cultural, social and religious backgrounds among racial groups. As per the approved budget for the year 2022, provisions have been allocated under four principal projects.

3.8.2 Progress of the projects implemented by the National Integration Division (as at 30.09.2022)

1. In order to the advance the of integrity, co-existence and reconciliation among the different ethnic groups, these programmers are implemented at the grass root level with the objectives of covering a wide range in order to empower culture, art, language, religion, sports and the groups of people cornered in the society.

Empowerment of school children who are cornered in the society.

In assuring the right to education for all children in the country, it is important to focus special attention on the avoidance of unjust and discrimination on the grounds of differences in economic social status, ethnicity, religion or caste etc.



Distribution of school items to empower the school children cornered in the Divisional Secretariat. Devinuwara.

such equal education opportunities to children discriminated due to poverty, disability or such other cause and to children living in rural areas and children discriminating due to parenty,disability or any form of marginalization facing difficulties when obtaining equaal rights to education,not equal as fortunated children.This programme therefore aims to provide infrastructure facilities to some extent to ensure their education.



Distribution of school items to empower the school children cornered in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Ganga Ihala Koralya.

2. Economic empowerment to advance the co-existence and social infrastructure facilities development projects - Expenditure Head 2509-13-05-01-110

Programme for the economic empowerment (low income families and female-headed families)

In the society, the female-headed family can be considered as the most marginal group Among the persons who are disadvantaged in the society. Hence, attention must be drawn on the enhancement of the economic status of the families led by women. This programmes intend to enhance the economic status of the families assistance and training opportunities for self -employments whose husbands were dead, deserted by their spouses, divorced , enfeeble, unmarried and who are not looked after by their spouses due to various reasons. In addition to that the, this programme is also designed to provide assistance to commence self-employment opportunities to women whose husbands are addicted to drugs and the women whose husbands have returned from prison or serving imprisonment for committing an illegal act. These projects are now implemented in all the Provinces except Northern and Eastern Provinces.



Provision of assistance to start self-employments to low income families and female-headed families.

Duration	Number of Projects	Number of Beneficiaries	Allocated
01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	89	106	14,174,764.05

3. Economic Empowerment to Advance the Reconciliation and Social Infrastructure Development Project - Expenditure Head 2509-19-05-01-110

It is notice that there are families living in Northern and Eastern Provinces marginalized as a result of low income and minimum facilities. In these provinces, it can be seen many female-headed families and this project aims to enhance their living conditions through income generation. In order to upgrade the living conditions of the female-headed families, the provisions allocated for the Districts coming under the Northern and Eastern Provinces as at 30.09.2022 are indicated below.

Duration	Number of Projects	Number of Beneficiaries	Provisions allocated
01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	59	90	4,756,490.00



Photograph No 4: Provision of agricultural implements to low income families and female-headed families



Photograph No.5: Provision of assistance for self-employment to low income and female-headed families.

3.8.3 Summary of the projects implemented from 01.01.2022 until 30.09.2022

No	Projects implemented	Projects implemented	No.of projects	No. of beneficiaries	Allocated (Rs.)
01	Empowerment of school children cornered.	Distribution of school items for school children losing their parents, having a single parent or stricken by poverty	15	902 school children	3,149,210

02	Provision of school items for schools with minimum facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing book cupboards. • Providing of communication equipment. • Providing of library facilities. • Improving of school physical resources. • Providing of technical equipment. • Providing of books and cupboards. • Providing desks and chairs. 	3 schools	826 students in 3 schools	850,000
Total			18		3,999,210

3.8.4 Summary of Provisions allocated under each expenditure head as at 30.09.2022

No	Expenditure head	Description	2022 Approved estimate for the year 2022 (Rs.)	2022 Revised Estimation for the year 2022 (Rs.)	Provisions expended as at 30.09.2022 (Rs.)
1.	110-01-05-02-2509	Implementation of coexistence programs.	18.00	7.77	3.99
2.	110-01-05-13-2509	Economic Empowerment and Social Infrastructure Development Project aimed at reconciliation.	40.00	28.00	25.93
3.	110-01-05-14-2509	Establishment of Reconciliation Committees at District Level.	15.00	2.33	4.81
4.	110-01-05-19-2509	Economic Empowerment and Social Infrastructure Development Project aimed at strengthening reconciliation	24.00	7.61	4.75
Total			97.00	45.71	39.48

3.8.5 Special projects implemented by the National Integration Division

(Access to Justice–Mobile Service)

There is a as multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious, and multi-lingual diversity among Sri Lankans. Establishing national integration among those people groups is one of the foremost tasks of the National Integration Division established under the Ministry of Justice. To make that work more successful, all Sri Lankans should stand as one nation. Accordingly, a law-abiding society should be built recognizing the existing racial, religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity of all citizens and an environment should be created where the law is enforced for the sake of social justice and law-enforcement institutions, officers, and civilians respect the law.

In order to create such an environment, the National Integration Division has implemented mobile service programs and concurrent programs in the Northern Province in January 2022 focusing on Kilinochchi and Jaffna Districts in order to provide the necessary legal advice and legal guidance documents to all sections of the population. This program was implemented with the financial support of the foreign aid projects namely Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Program (SCORE) (USAID) and Strengthening Reconciliation Program in Sri Lanka (SRP) (GIZ) which are implemented under the Ministry of Justice with the coordination support of the District Secretaries.



Photograph No. 6 : Access to Justice Mobile Service in Northern Province (Kilinochchi)

A total of 2900 service beneficiaries have participated and obtained services through this mobile service program. In addition to the institutions under the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Registration of Persons, Department of Land Commissioner General, Department of Provincial Land Commissioner, Palm Development Board, Small Business Development Division, and Vocational Training Authority directly provided services to the people, have supported to the mobile services by actively contributing to the programme. Providing documents required for completion of compensation claims for missing persons, providing information about the compensation claim process, updating of applications and documents currently submitted with incomplete information, and giving of approval to issue Certificates of Absence for compensation, were among the services provided to the public by the Office on Missing Persons.

In addition, compensation cheques worth 100 million rupees were distributed among 996 beneficiaries by the Office on Missing Persons and completed 820 incomplete files. Also, livelihood support of Rs.550,000 was distributed among 11 female-headed families.

Along with these mobile services, 5 awareness programs as regards the services provided by the institutions under the Ministry of Justice were conducted for 925 government officials at the ground level in 5 Districts of the Northern Province.

Simultaneously, the Office on Missing Persons conducted investigation programs in 05 Districts of the Northern Province, where it was able to complete 328 investigations. Also, Awareness programs for government officers, school children, police officers and the general public were conducted under the Basic Awareness Program on the law by the Legal Aid Commission where more than 900 people participated.

The senior officers including the District Secretaries of the 05 Districts of the Northern Province identified the following issues that should be given immediate attention by the respective line Ministries.

- Issues related to wildlife sanctuaries and forest reserve boundaries
- Developing of the tourism industry in the Northern Province.
- Running of a passenger ferry service between Kankasanthure and Thuththukudi.
- Expansion of Jaffna (Palali) International Airport
- Preventing of illegal sand mining (Kilinochchi).
- Issues related to land possession

These issues were taken into consideration at a discussion headed by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Hon. Minister of Justice in March 2022 with the participation of line Ministries and Departments and a follow-up session was held by the Hon. Minister of Justice on 25.08.2022. Furthermore, the Hon. Minister of Justice paid more attention to the resettlement of Indian refugees during a field visit to the Northern Province in May. Accordingly, a special committee has been established for the same and necessary steps are being taken to resolve the existing issues.

3.9 FINANCE DIVISION

3.9.1 Role of the Finance Division:

Activities relevant to financial management and account activities of the Ministry of Justice, Court administration and the Departments and Institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry are carried out by the Finance Division.

In carrying out those activities, the Division is engaged in ;

1. Implementation of efficient and productive finance management and providing instructions and guidance relevant thereto.
2. Confirming security of the assets of the institution.
3. Utilization of money as per Financial Regulations and Circular provisions.
4. Budget controlling.
5. Accounting and Reporting.
6. Responding Audit queries and providing necessary information need to parliamentary committees.

3.9.2. Sub Divisions of Finance Division:

Finance Division consists of following 04 sub-divisions for carrying out the above functions.

1. Payments
2. Court Administration
3. Accounts
4. Procurements

The functions of each division are as follows.

1. The functions of the Payments Division-

1. All payment activities relevant to following under expenditure head - 110 of the Ministry of Justice.
 - (i) Ministerial staff
 - (ii) Ministry Administration
 - (iii) Mediation Boards Commission
 - (iv) National Integration and Reconciliation Unit
 - (v) National Integration Promotion
 - (vi) Prison Affairs Unit
2. Preparation of salaries
3. Controlling of expenditure ledger
4. Providing necessary reports relevant to non- financial assets of the Ministry and all institutions coming under the Ministry, to the Comptroller General.
5. Reporting monthly accounts summaries to the General Treasury.
6. Imprest Management.

2. The functions of the Court Administration Division-

1. Accounting activities of the following under the expenditure head, Court Administration - 228
 - i. Court Administration
 - ii. Labour Tribunal
2. Supervision and coordination of accounting activities of 26 judicial zones.
3. Releasing of provision and imprest for court necessities.
4. Reporting monthly the income and expenditure of courts to the Treasury by way of accounting summaries.
5. Accounting of relevant Assets changes and reporting them to the Department of Public Finance.
6. Delegation of authority for operating official bank accounts.
7. Responding internal and Auditor General's Audit queries
8. Payments of construction activities of court building which are carried out by the Ministry.

3. The functions of the Account Division

1. Preparation of annual budget estimates for expenditure head 110 and 228.
2. Preparation of annual financial statements and submission of those to Auditor General.
3. Activities relevant to Public Officers Advance "B" Account.
4. Reviewing expenditure and controlling the budget.
5. Coordination of financial and accounting activities of the department and institutions.
6. Carrying out annual Board of Survey and giving approval for carrying out Auction activities.
7. Granting approval for disposal of goods confiscated by the courts

4. The functions of Procurement Division

1. Purchasing activities of all goods and services of the Ministry.
2. Releasing of provision necessary to purchase office equipment for courts.
3. Appointing procurement and technical evaluation committees of the Ministry of Justice and the institutions comes under the purview of the Ministry.
4. Organizing relevant meetings, preparation of reports and giving approval as the Secretary of Procurement entity.

3.9.3 Financial Progress as at 30.09.2022

Expenditure Head 110 - Ministry of Justice

Description	Provision for the year 2022 (Rs. Million)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. million)	Progress (%)
Recurrent expenditure	2,686.5	1,324.3	49.29
Capital expenditure	5,519.6	675.97	12.25
Grand total	8,206.1	2,000.27	24.38

Expenditure Head 228 - Court Administration

Description	Provision for the year 2022 (Rs. Million)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Million)	Progress (%)
Recurrent expenditure	8,748.45	6,471.02	73.72
Capital expenditure	2,200.15	1,224.14	55.64
Grand total	10,948.60	7,695.16	70.28

Revenue Collection Head 228 - Court Administration

Description of Revenue	Estimate 2022 (Rs. Million)	Revenue collection as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Million)	Progress (%)
Revenue collection relevant to fines and confiscations	800	966.74	120.84
Interest income	40	41.93	104.83
Sales charges - other receipts	70	107.62	153.74
Sales charges - Administrative fees - miscellaneous	150	172.14	114.76
Building Rent	35	30.52	87.19
Selling of fixed assets - other	12	14.49	120.77
Grand total	1,107	1,333.44	120.46

Receipt and payments of deposits Head 228 -Court Administration

Description	Deposit receipts as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Million)	Deposit payments as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Million)
Bail Deposit	619.11	258.41
Deposit temporarily withheld for repayment to to third party	4,478.52	3,3619.77
Remittance of income to provincial councils	3,151.82	2,808.14
Contract Deposits	104	25.82
Tender Deposits	3.01	3.06

3.9.4. Progress of the procurement activities as at 30.09.2022

01. (i) Purchasing activities of all goods and services of the Ministry.
(ii) Releasing necessary provision for acquiring office equipment for courts.
(iii) Appointing procurement and Technical Evaluation Committees of the Ministry and the institution coming under the purview of the Ministry.
(iv) Organizing relevant meetings, preparation of meeting minutes and obtaining approvals as the Secretary of the procurement entity.
(v) Carrying out procurement activities which are beyond the limit, of the Departments and institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry.
(vi) Managing Assets of the Ministry

02. Procurement activities needed to repair and service activities of biometric finger print machines of the courts, located all over the island in the year 2022 were carried out.

03. Procurement activities for giving furniture and computer accessories to 11 new courts were carried out and the cost incurred for fulfilling such necessities was Rs. 21 million.

- 04 Total amount of provision for the period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022 to fulfill furniture and office necessities of courts are as follows.
For Courts - Rs. 12 Million
For Labour Tribunals - Rs. 1 Million

3.10 INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

The Internal Audit Division takes the charge of auditing in respect of the Ministry of Justice including the Departments coming within its purview, three statutory bodies namely the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management, the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and the Legal Aid Commissioner and as well as the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, the Office for Reparation, the Office on Missing Persons, the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses, the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation in addition to the Mediation Boards Commission which functions as an assisting project under the Ministry Administration Vote and as well as the Civil Appellate High Courts, the High Courts, the District Courts and the Magistrate's Courts which are functioning under Courts Administration Vote including the Labour Tribunal Secretariat which too functions as an assisting project under Courts Administration Vote .

Internal auditing activities in the above institutions are carried out drawing special emphasis on system auditing. As per the risk-based internal auditing plan drawn up by the Ministry for the year 2022, during the period from 01st January, 2022 to 30th September 2022, audit inspections have been completed in respect of the institutions set out below.

- 05 High Courts
- 09 District/Magistrate's Courts
- 04 District Courts
- 12 Magistrate's Courts
- 04 Civil Appellate High Courts
- 03 Departments
- 04 Audit inspection in the Ministry of Justice
- Office for National Unity and Reconciliation
- Office on Missing Persons
- 10 Special Audit inspections
- 02 Audit and Management Committee Meetings

It has been planned to carry out 53 audit inspections as at 30th September 2022. However, in consequence of the effects of uncertainty prevalent in the country recently, only 44 audit inspections have been carried out in addition to conducting of 02 audit and management committee meetings.

In the process of internal auditing, more attention is placed on system auditing in particular while focusing emphasis on internal control and internal supervision. The auditing are planned to be carried out as per the risk-based auditing considering exigencies, as there is a limited staff to carry out audit inspections in 243 audit units at present.

It has been planned to carry out audit inspections and to hold audit and management committee meetings during the next quarter upon formulating a revised audit inspection plan in addition to the audits presently pending are intended to be done as per the revised audit inspection plan.

4. INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT COMING UNDER THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

4.1 ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Vision

To be the bastion of the Public Service of Sri Lanka in responding effectively to the course of justice in the interest of Sri Lanka.

Mission

- ❖ To serve the people of Sri Lanka to our utmost endeavor and work with honour, dignity and integrity to fulfill Sri Lanka's promise.
- ❖ The Attorney General's Department will strive to enforce laws of Sri Lanka on the premises of fairness and independence, to ensure justice, safety and liberty for the people of Sri Lanka, in a bid to encourage social and economic prosperity, equal opportunity and tolerance.

Objective

To provide expert legal services and advice to the Sri Lankan Government Institutions, Corporations and Statutory Boards and to play a pivotal role in the delivery of the Governments' broader objectives.

4.1.1 Introduction

The Hon. Attorney General is the Chief Legal Advisor representing the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. He performs the duties as the Head of the Department and Accounting Officer in the Department. The Attorney General's Department falls under the category of A Grade Department.

The Attorney General's Department tenders legal advice, either upon being advice sought or on its own initiative to the Central Government, Provincial Councils, Government's Departments, Statutory Boards and such other semi government institution with regard to criminal and civil matters including constitutional and commercial jurisdictions etc. Further, the Counsels attached to the Department appear before the Superior Courts, Provincial

Appellate High Courts, High Courts and Courts of first instance including Labour Tribunals for the Government and Government Establishments in litigation.

Three main Divisions named Civil Division, Criminal Division and State Attorney Division have been established in the Department for Civil and Criminal cases. The Administration Division and the Accounts Division carry out the activities relating to Administration and Accounts. Additionally, Corporation Branch, EER Unit to deal with the matters in respect of Emergency Regulations and Preventions of Terrorism Act, Unit to deal the matters in respect of Child Abuse Cases, Immigration and Emigration Unit, Public Complaints Unit and Supreme Court Branch play an important role for the efficient discharge of the duties of the Department.

4.1.2 Role of the Attorney General's Department

- To provide instructions to the Government and Governmental Institutions on Civil, Criminal, Constitutional and Commercial matters, International legal activities and the matters of the United Nations, Human Rights Commission
- To represent the Government and Governmental Institutions for the cases, instituted in the Supreme Court, Other Court & Labour Tribunals.
- To provide necessary legal advice with regard to enactment of new laws and amendments to the existing laws.

Following Divisions of the Department assist in performing the above functions:-

- ↗ Criminal Branch
- ↗ Civil Branch
- ↗ State Attorney's Branch
- ↗ Supreme Court Branch
- ↗ Corporation Branch

Further, for the smooth functioning of the Department there are special units, vested with specially recognized responsibilities. Namely,

- ↗ Public Petitions Unit (This Division handles cases regarding public petitions)
- ↗ Child Abuse Unit (This Division has been established to handle cases, regarding the child abuses)

Aforesaid Divisions and units handle main functions of the Attorney General's Department and the Accounts Division and the Establishment Division have been established for the administrative work of the Attorney General's Department.

4.1.3 Performance of each Division from 1st January 2022 to 30th September 2022 is as follows:

Division	Category of Cases	Files B/F from 2021	No. of Files Opened as at 30 th September 2022	No. of Concluded Files as at 30.09.2022	No. of pending Files as 30 th Sep. 2022
*Civil Division	CE/MC		73	00	86
	CA/LT		08	00	
	CA/MC		06	01	
	Total		87	01	
	CA/DC		351	****	
	CA/HC		346		
	CA/CA		460		
State Attorney's	civil case	11,589	1,208	896	11,901
Criminal	criminals	6,390	2,076	2,065	(6401-92) 6,390**
Supreme Court Division	SC FR, SC Writ, SC SD, SC Contempt of Court	847	442	244	1,045
Corporation	Advices and Agreements	8,134	1,912	988	9,058
***Child Abuse	Child Abuse	2,448	(1484+1129) 2613	2,046	3,015
Public Petition	Criminal/Civil	1,258	949	772	1435
Total		30,666	9,287	7,012	(32,914-92) 32,849

*It has been indicated here the number of cases finalized only from the civil division CA/DC, CA/HC & CA/CA files initiated from the civil division are finalized by the state counsel division.

** As the EER/AB files mentioned in the progress report from 01/01/22 to 15/08/22 are not advice files it has been deducted 92 EER/AB files have

*** It has been reactivated 1129 case files from 01/01/22 to 30/09/22

**** The file initiated by the Civil division has forward to the state Attorney Division

4.1.4 Financial Progress from 01.01.2020 to 30.09.2020

Description	2020 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30 th Sep: 2020 (Rs.Mn)	Progress as at 30 th Sept. 2020 (%)
Recurrent Expenditure	1,593.63	1,165.42	73.13%
Capital Expenditure	273.81	93.75	34.24%
Total	1,867.44	1,259.17	67.43%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.2 LEGAL DRAFTSMAN'S DEPARTMENT

VISION

To assist the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure good governance, by transforming government policies into legislation.

MISSION

In transforming government policies into legislation, the drafting of such legislation in accordance with the Constitution, in all three languages Sinhala, Tamil and English.

4.2.1 Introduction

The Legal Draftsman's Department is an "A" grade Government Department.

The main function of the Legal Draftsman's Department is the transformation of the government policies on diverse subjects into legislation, in accordance with the Constitution and with the decisions approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. In the process of transforming government policies into legislation, the Department drafts Bills to enact new legislation and to amend existing legislation, and it also revises the subordinate legislation submitted by various Ministries of the Government. The other duties entrusted to this Department include participating at Parliamentary select committee meetings convened to review draft Bills and being present in Parliament and coordinate with Parliament when the Bills are taken up for debate. This Department provides services to all Government Ministries and Departments including State Corporations and Statutory Bodies. The Department also provides legal advice to Ministries and Departments of the Government with regard to the preparation of various Bills and subordinate legislation.

4.2.2 Key Functions of the Legal Draftsman's Department in relation to drafting of Bills are as follows:-

- (1) Drafting of Bills in all three languages to enact new legislation and to amend existing legislation.
- (2) Revision and (where necessary) drafting of subordinate legislation in all three languages;
- (3) Attending to parliamentary duties in connection with the drafting of laws;
- (4) Drafting of Provincial Council Statutes where necessary;
- (5) Revision of Private Members' Bills (Incorporation Bills) in all three languages.

This Department also provides legal advice in respect of drafting of Acts, subordinate legislation and Provincial Council Statutes.

The unique feature of this Department is that it does not have a structured work programme of its own. This is because the work programme of the Department is of necessity, structured on the legislative needs of the Ministries of the Government and the various Departments

under such Ministries, at a given time, upon the required policy being approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The performance record of the Legal Draftsman's Department is therefore structured on the basis of the successful completion of the requests made for primary and amending legislation and subordinate legislation submitted to it by the respective line Ministries throughout any particular year. Any form of legislation which comes under the scope of legislative drafting, which is the primary function of the Department, has to be completed in all three languages before it can be released to the requesting Ministry or Department.

4.2.3 01.01.2022 to 30.09.30 Progress

Completed Files Details

01	Nature of the duty	Drafting of Bills (Principal Legislation and Amending Legislation)	Private Members' Bills (Incorporation)	Revision of Subordinate Legislation	Provincial Council Statutes	Total
02	The number of requests that were submitted as Preliminary or completed Bills, but are awaiting observations and instructions of the Attorney-General or other Ministries and Departments as at 01.01.2022 (Balance brought forward)	202	13	125	09	349
03	The number of requests of which the drafting has not been completed as at 01.01.2022 (Balance brought forward)	29	13	48	01	91
04	The number of new requests that were received from parties within this year	30	14	134	01	179
05	The number of requests that has been completed in three languages in this year and previous years but were resent for further amendments	05	02	19	00	26
06	Total	266	42	326	11	645

	Nature of the duty	Drafting of Bills (Principal Legislation and Amending Legislation)	Private Members' Bills (Incorporation)	Revision of Subordinate Legislation	Provincial Council Statutes	Total
07	The number of requests that has been completed in three languages and returned to the relevant parties as at 30.09.2022 (Each instance of Final Drafts that were completed in three languages for several times and were submitted to the relevant parties are included in this.)	45	03	148	00	196
08	The number of files that were closed due to absence of instructions for a long period of time	70	00	22	00	92
09	The number of requests that were submitted as Preliminary or Completed drafts as at 30.09.2022, but are awaiting observations and instructions of the Attorney-General or other Ministries and Departments	Attorney-General	31	114	11	279
		Other Ministries and Departments				
10	The number of requests in respect of which the drafting has not been completed as at 30.09.2022	28	08	42	00	78

4.2.4 Completed Files and Requests submitted from 01-01-2022 to 30-09-2022

File	Requests submitted from 01-01-2022 to 30-09-2022	The number of Bills that has been sent in all three Languages
Drafting of Bills (Principal Legislation and Amending Legislation)	30	45 - (This includes requests received in previous years and those received in 2022)
Personal Drafts of Members' of Parliament	14	03 - (This includes requests received in previous years and those received in 2022)
Revision of Subordinate Legislation	134	148 - (This includes requests received in previous years and those received in 2022)
Provincial Council Statutes	1	0
Total	179	196

4.2.5 Financial Progress as at 30.09.2022

Description	Allocation for the year 2022 (Rs. Mn)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. Mn)	Financial Progress as at 30.09.2022 %
Recurrent Expenditure	135.68	96.55	71%
Capital Expenditure	1.15	0.005	0.43%
Total	136.83	96.55	70.56%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.3 DEPARTMENT OF LAW COMMISSION

The Law Commission of Sri Lanka was established under the Law Commission Act No. 03 of 1969, and it is the main government institution which recommends legal reforms. The Department of Law Commission is constituted to extend administrative and research support.

Vision

To promote reform of the Law for good governance.

Mission

Implementation of the functions prescribed in the Law Commission Act No. 03 of 1969 for the promotion of the reform of the law.

4.3.1 Objectives and Functions

The main objective of the Law Commission is to promote the reform of the law. Following functions are performed by the Law Commission for the purposes of such promotion.

- i. The codification of law.
- ii. The elimination of anomalies.
- iii. To take and keep under review the law, both substantive and procedural with a view to its systematic development and reform.
- iv. The repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments.
- v. The simplification and modernization of the law.
- vi. To receive and consider any proposals for the reform of the law.
- vii. To prepare and submit to the Minister, from time to time, programmes for the examination of different branches of the law with a view to reform.

- viii. To obtain such information as to the legal systems of other countries.
- ix. To keep under constant review the exercise by bodies, other than parliament, of the power to legislate by subsidiary legislation with a view to ensuring that they conform to well established principles and to the rule of law.
- x. To formulate programmes for rationalizing and simplifying legal procedures including procedures of an administrative character connected with litigation.
- xi. To formulate programmes for the codification of the law in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

4.3.2 Performance from 2022 .01.01 – 2022.09.30

Inquiries on the Bill by the Draftsman of the Proposed Recommendation on the Obfuscation of Courts Act	
Background	MOJ(L)497/2021 bearing no The letter dated 30/06/2022 was discussed on the request made by the Ministry of Justice.
Current Status	Recommendation of the Law Commission on the relevant draft 2022.07. Dates have been forwarded to the Legal Department of the Ministry of Justice by e-mail.
Proposed Law on Conveyance Law Proposed by the Ministry of Justice	
Background	Suggesting that the Chairman of the Law Commission should study the currently proposed draft of the Ministry of Justice before the amendments brought to the Vaivahaka Act expected to be proposed by the Law Commission.
Current Status	The draft was discussed. The opinion of the Law Commission including the chairman was that a procedure should be proposed for divorce, guardianship and compensation. The Chairman informed the Law Commission that he will inform the Honorable Minister of Justice that the Law Commission intends to forward a new resolution. Accordingly, on September 5, 2022, a Law Commission meeting has been used to discuss this matter through ZOOM technology.
Proposals on the law on social media and the right to privacy	
Background	The Law Commission suggested that a new legal framework should be introduced to the law on social media and right to privacy.
Current Status	On September 15, 2022, a Law Commission meeting has been used to discuss this matter through ZOOM technology.

The right to privacy	
Background	Inquiring about the legal status of posting photos taken in private situations on social media without the consent of the person in them.
Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaging a person's image on contractual and commercial grounds. Nature of liability and obligation between the parties • Public figures - Freedom of the press and right to expression should not be compromised. • Use on commercial grounds. • Intent to harm a person's personal image • Blackmailing over photos of sexual content • Intent to cause harm must be proved. • The positive views of the new generation about social media should be suppressed. • There should be flexible rules that are not detrimental to the positive benefits of new technological computer software.

4.3.3 Financial Progress from 2022.01.01 – 2022.09.30

Description	2020 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30th Sept. 2020 (Rs.Mn)	Progress as at 30th Sept. 2020 (%)
Recurrent Expenditure	17.70	11.20	63%
Capital Expenditure	1.21	0.08	07%
Total	19.00	11.00	58%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.4 GOVERNMENT ANALYST'S DEPARTMENT

Vision

To form a fair and law abiding society.

Mission

Providing Analytical Advisory and Consultancy Service in the fields of Forensic and Food Sciences to Law Courts, Law Enforcement Agencies and other Institutions.

4.4.1 Introduction

The Government Analyst's Department, being the only forensic science laboratory in Sri Lanka, consists of two major divisions namely Food Science and Forensic Science. Food Science Division includes four areas namely Food, Liquor, Milk and Water. Forensic Science Division has nine (09) major disciplines as Forensic Ballistics, Forensic Serology and DNA, Forensic Toxicology, Explosives and Fire Investigation, Narcotic Drugs, Forensic Questioned Documents, Computer Forensic and Forensic Miscellaneous Section.

The Department proves to be a service providing institution in that it provides scientific analytical, advisory and consultancy services. The Government Analyst's Department issues analytical reports upon scientific examination and analysis on productions (evidence) referred to it by the Law Courts, Department of Police, Department of Customs, Department of Excise, Local Government Institutions, Ministry of Health, Port Authority as well as other Government Departments and Statutory Bodies. Further, it carries out analysis to ensure quality of food, liquor, milk and milk products and water with the samples being referred to the Department by the various Government Departments and state sponsored bodies. Additionally, the samples received from the Department of Customs are also analyzed for quality. The Questioned Documents Section prepares analytical reports after examination of the questioned documents forwarded by the Courts of Law and other relevant authorities.

Moreover, the Department provides investigation and consultancy service to the Police Department for crime scene investigations related to crimes such as explosions, shootings, fires and fatal motor traffic accidents in the country. Further scientists in the toxicology section attends for food testing in the missions of foreign VIP delegations in Sri Lanka. In support of scientific reports issued by the Department officers they have to appear before courts for expert testimony.

Further, experts from the Department provides training for Judicial Medical Officers, Police, Scenes of Crime officers, two forces, trainee lawyers of Attorney's General Department and public health inspectors etcin the fields of forensic and food science.

4.4.2 Performance of 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Laboratory	No of cases remaining as at 01.01.2022	No. of cases Received	No. of cases Reported	No. of cases not reported as at 30.09.2022
Narcotic, drugs and psychotropic substances	1,390	13,507	11,199	3,698
Firearms and Ballistics	221	322	350	193
Explosives & Fire Investigation	163	606	561	208
Forensic Toxicology	1,383	1,975	2,310	1,048
Forensic Serology and DNA	2,567	1,435	1,079	2,923
Questioned Documents Examination	80	508	493	95
Computer Forensic	878	653	598	933
Forensic Miscellaneous - CM	365	346	434	277
Liquor	392	5,155	4,727	820
Liquor & Tobacco	192	2,189	2,246	135
Samples of Food under Food Act	21	2,922	2,895	48
Miscellaneous Foods	48	642	677	13
	7,700	30,260	27,569	10,391

4.4.3 Other Activities

Activity	Amount
Number of Court Attendance	214 days
Number of Crime Scene Visit	421 days
VIP Food Testing by officers of Toxicology Section	05 officers days
Lecture Conducted	22 days
Local Training	859 officers days
Officers following MSC in UK (1 year)	01

- ❖ From 15th June to 15th August, a 02 day shift per week was in operation. (According to Circular No. 16/2022, 16/2022(1) & 16/2022(11))
- ❖ During the period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022, the 28 new officers of the scientific service who were recruited to the department on 17.09.2020 participated in the induction training

4.4.4 Future Plans Related to Performance

With the foreign exchange crisis in the country since the end of 2021, face problem in supplying chemicals & consumables continuously. Also, due to transportation difficulties, the number of cases to be reported increased to a certain extent that the officers reported to work under shift basis. In the year 2023, this situation is expected to be avoided as much as possible.

4.4.5 Financial Progress

Description	Approved Allocation for 2022 (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure up to 30.09.2022	Financial Progress up to 30.09.2022 as (%)
Recurrent Expenditure	416.3	300.25	72%
Capital Expenditure	201.5	24.76	12%
Total	617.8	325.01	52%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.5 DEPARTMENT OF DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD

Vision

To provide a relief arrangement for the aggrieved public for the repayment of loans involving immovable property.

Mission

Provision of legal protection and relief for the debtors to enable them to get back their immovable property such as agricultural land, housing property placed as security for a loan obtained on a Mortgage, Deed of Conditional Transfer, or Deed of transfer executed solely in respect of a loan transaction, by making payment in installment with a low rate of interest.

Objective

To assist parties to arrive at a settlement on the repayment of loans on Mortgage Bonds, Deeds of Conditional Transfer and Deeds of transfer executed solely for a loan transaction in respect of immovable property.

3.4.3 Introduction

This Department was established under the Debt Conciliation Ordinance No. 39 of 1941 with the objective of introducing relief measures to save from indebtedness the people who are indebted on secured loans obtained on Conditional transfers or mortgages of immovable property such as land, paddy fields, estates or housing property. In addition to this, in terms of the Amendment Act No. 29 of 1999, the Debt Conciliation Board is authorized to intervene in respect of loans obtained on the basis of a transfer deed executed exclusively for a loan transaction, thereby further expanding the relief offered by the Board.

The proceedings before this Board are different from those before an ordinary court of law. The settlement arrived at between the parties is not an agreement imposed by the Boards but one arrived at voluntarily by the parties, before the Debt Conciliation Board. However, the Board has the power to reduce the unreasonable rates of interest charged or in case of failure on the part of the parties to accept the just suggestions made by the Board to issue a certificate under the Ordinance to the debtors. Further, if the creditors fail to appear before the Board at the final hearing in response to the notice issued, an expert hearing is held after which a certificate is issued to the debtor. However, it is so done, only if the Board is satisfied that the creditor has intentionally failed to attend the inquiry to be held after notice is issued through registered post and the Grama Niladhari. On such occasions, the benefit of the issue of such a certificate will accrue to the debtor. If this certificate is produced to a court before which a trial is being held on the same matter, that court is empowered under the Debt Conciliation Ordinance to allow a period subject to a maximum of 10 years for the settlement of the loan and reduce the interest to the minimum rate and not to recover any costs from the debtor.

4.5.2 Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Progress of completing Application

Description	Number
Number of pending applications brought forward 01.01.2022	1424
Number of new applications	321
Number of applications received for review	10
Total number of applications	1755
Number of applications settled	339
Number of applications dismissed	176
Number of applications reviewed	10
Number of applications on which certificates were issued	0
Number of applications withdrawn	52
Number of cases removed from the roll	11
Number of set-aside applications	71
Total	663
Number of applications pending as at 31.12.2021	1092

District wise Application submitted

District	No. of received applications as at 30.09.2022
Colombo	51
Kalutara	33
Kurunegala	33
Kegalle	13
Rathnapura	16
Badulla	01
Ampara	01
Galle	42
Matara	15
Hambantota	03
Gampaha	91
Kandy	14
Puttalam	06
Matale	02
Total	321

Progress of the Deft Council Boards

Branch Board	Number of Applications in Branch Board	Number of settled Applications as at 30.09.2022	Number of Pending Applications as at 30.09.2022
Main Branch	643	232	411
Galle Branch	233	143	90
Gampaha Branch	445	162	283
Kurunegala Branch	434	126	308
Total	1755	663	1092

4.5.2.1. Number of Received Applications of Main Branch and Branch Boards from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022 (District Wise)

Main Branch

District	Received Applications as at 30.09.2022
Colombo	51
Kalutara	53
Kurunegala	01
Kegalle	02
Rathnapura	16
Badulla	01
Ampara	01
Total	105

Galle Branch

District	Received Applications (30.09.2022)
Galle	42
Matara	15
Hambantota	03
Total	60

Gampaha Branch

District	Received Applications (30.09.2022)
Gampaha	91

Kurunegala Branch

District	Received Applications (30.09.2022)
Kandy	14
Kurunegala	32
Kegalle	11
Puttalam	06
Matale	02
Total	65

4.5.3 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Vote	Applications for the Year 2022 (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs.Mn)	Financial Progress as at 30.09.2022 (%)
Recurrent	35.85	26.43	74%
Capital	1.00	0.09	9%
Total	36.85	26.52	72%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.6 DEPARTMENT OF PRISON

Vision

Social reintegration of inmates as good citizens through rehabilitation

Mission

Rehabilitation of Prisoners ensuring their custody and care by building a proper relationship between the prisoners and the officials so that the officials gain the job satisfaction while the labor productivity of the prisoners to enable the department be self-dependent and utilizing it to augment the development drive of the country and ultimately socializing the prisoners as creative and virtuous skillful citizens.”

Goals

1. Contribute to build a civilized society by means of proper rehabilitation of inmates and thereby making inmates to law abiding humanitarian persons.
2. Motivate prison officers and building up the team spirit within the department.

4.6.1. Introduction

Prison commenced as a result of the judicial reforms introduced by Cameron in British Imperialist Era in 1832. Welikada Prison was established compatible with British Bostal System in terms of the Legal and Court Ordinance no. 18 of 1844. By the Prison Act no.16 of 1877, this service was structured and regulated under a separate department directly under control of the Commissioner of the Prisons with the effect from 16th July, 1905. With development of the society, this service turns out to be very crucial. As a result, the Mahara Prison was built in 1875 and the Bogambara Prison which was in the form of the “Been Field’ Prison in England was constructed in 1876. Today, the prison evolved this way, has become an essential and specific institute before the complexity of present day society. Accordingly, prison system consists of 04 closed prisons, 18 remand prisons, 02 correctional centers for young offenders, 10 work camps, 02 open work camps, 23 prison lockups, and 01 prison school are under the control of Superintendents of Prisons.

Moto - Custody, Care and Correction

Tasks

1. Under the authority of whatever court in a country, admission of convicted or remand prisoners at all status, provision of their custody, care and maintenance in terms of rules and regulations of the prison and production of remand prisoners to court.
2. Provision of common order and proper administration in relation to all prisons and correctional centers.

3. Provision of technical, agricultural, animal husbandry, and vocational trainings to inmates in all prisons and correctional centers.
4. Provision of welfare services to all prisons and correctional centers.
5. Making provisions for trainings to strengthen correctional field.
6. Making a desired social back ground for inmates after rehabilitation and social reintegration as better citizens as timely requirement.
7. Reducing prison congestion, introducing modern technology, improving physical resources and developing infrastructure facilities in relation to carrying out prison reforms.
8. Human resources development in Department of Prisons to make experienced and satisfied officers through training in different divisions and promotional programs.
9. Establishment and carrying out the Information Management System in order to fulfill administrative activities of inmates correctly and efficiently.

Priorities

Provision of prisoners with custody, care and correction.

3.7.3 Information on inmates administration from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

1. No. of inmates convicted by Court of Law from 01.01.2022 to 31.08.2022

No. of Inmates Convicted	Male	Female	Total
No. of Inmates convicted by Court of Law	14,734	207	14,941
No. of Suspects convicted by Court of Law	59,947	2,221	62,168
Total	74,681	2,428	77,109

2. No. of inmates as per morning opening on 30.09.2022

Total No. of Prisoners	Male	Female	Total
All Convicted Prisoners	8,810	192	9,002
All Remand Prisoners	14,993	658	15,651
Total No. of Prisoners	23,803	850	24,653

3. No of inmates and suspects who escaped from custody (2022.01.01-2022.09.30)

No. convicted /remand prisoners escaped/got rid of while in custody - 188
 No. of Prisoners recaptured - 84

4. Releases - from.01.01.2022. to 30.09.2022

Releases	Total
For the Independence day -04.02.2022	193
For the Vesal Full Moon Poya day -16.05.2022	224
For the Poson Full Monn Poya day -14.06.2022	183
For the Prisoners day -12.09.2022	417
Presidential Special Pardon -28.03.2022	01
Total	1,018

5. No. of inmates sent home leave and released on license- from.01.01.2022. to30.09.2022

- No. of inmates sent home leave - 221
- No. of inmates released on license - 50

4.6.3 Progress of Development Projects - from.01.01.2022. to30.09.2022

Project	Total Cost (Rs. M.)	Expenditure as at 31.12.2021 (Rs. M.)	Allocation for 2022 (Rs. M.)	Expenditure from 30.09.2022 (Rs. M.)	Physical Progress
Construction of New Dumbara Prison	4363.60	2022.97	120.00	80.30	Contract No.11 -72.5% Total Project -61.5%
Building construction at Mahara Prison	272.00	-	39.98	-	Though allocation has been made, project has been temporarily halted due to not obtaining cabinet approval for the Cabinet Memorandum presented to select a Consultation Institute to do planning and designing and the National Budget Circular 03/2022 to control State Expenses and Presidential Office Circular PS/SB/Circular/10/2022

Project	Total Cost (Rs. M.)	Expenditure as at 31.12.2021 (Rs. M.)	Allocation for 2022 (Rs. M.)	Expenditure from 30.09.2022 (Rs. M.)	Physical Progress
Construction of Thangalle Ang unakolapelessa Prison –Water Project.	4996.5 Water Projects-483.2	4626.18	40.00	30.00	100%- Work completed bill is due to be settled
Construction of buildings required for turning the Correctional Center for Young Offenders – Pallansena to a quarantine center.	135.00	43.10	29.3	20.07	90% Work completed
Improvement of Wariyapola Prison	1244.60	-	-	-	temporarily halted as per Circular 0 to control State Expenses
Establishment of a center that can be used to rehabilitate drug addicts inmates through agriculture and vocational training at Weravila Work Camp	198.67	50.67	20	11.478	Steps have been taken to call for Tender. Under this, library, vocational training building, and other identified necessities are due to be carried out.

4.6.4 Other Activities

Officers have been assigned under 04 programmes which flows under Departmental Vote on workshops and training programs with the coordination of UNODC and ICRC from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

	Time periods of workshops	Workshop	No.of officers	Place held	Details of resources person
1	2022.01.20 – 2022.01.21	Training program about Radicalism and eliminate Radicalism	21	Online	UNODC
2	2022.03.22	Medical checkups for novel inmates	14	Hotel OZO Colombo	ICRC
3	2022.07.18 – 2022.07.19	Improve knowledge, skills and abilities of Sri Lanka Prison department medical staff. (batch 01)	27	Golden Crown	UNODC
4	2022.07.25 – 2022.07.26	Improve knowledge, skills and abilities of Sri Lanka Prison department medical staff. (batch 01)	24	Citrus Waskaduwa	UNODC

Inmate vocational training programs (Vote no.- 2509)

Allocations for year 2022 (Rs. M.)	Expenditure as at 2022.09.30	Completed training programs	participated inmates number	Expenditure allocations in %
2.00	1.086	29	404	54.30%

Training programs done by Prison Information Communication Technology section from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Project	Allocation for 2022	Expenditure as at 2022.09.30 (Rs. M.)	Expenditure as a % of allocation
Software development	3.8	0.811	21%

Agriculture and Industrial Account

Expenditure allocations in %	Expenditure as at 31.08.2022 (Rs. M.)	Income as at 31.08.2022 (Rs. M.)
110.00	35.29	96.84

4.6.5 Highlights of the Department of Prisons from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

- The passing out ceremony of 194 Officers, who had legally left their Service at the Sri Lanka Tri Forces after 12 years of service, and were recruited to the Department of Prisons for the first time in history as Officers of the Prison's Emergency Action Tactical Force.
- Department of Prisons carries out the Five Year Plan, by giving priority to Prisons Reforms. Accordingly, Department of Prisons has identified specific matters need be reformed and given priority minimize prison congestion within five year plan prepared with remedies and proposed short, middle and long term solutions. As a solution to prison congestion as well as an alternative to keep custody for small offences, Five Year Plan has proposed to carry out home confinement even in Sri Lanka like other countries where better correctional methods are used, The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) also promotes these type of alternatives.
- The E-Visit facility has been introduced to relations of remand and convicted prisoners in Northern Province who was unable to visit their relative in any prison in Sri Lanka due to Covid -19 condition.
- After preliminary training at AngunakolapeleSsa Training School, a passing out parade for 204 newly recruited prison guards including 181 male and 23 female officers from 103- A Batch, was held at the Angunakolapelessa prison ground.
- As an alternative to food crises prevailed in the country today, a cultivation promoting program under the theme of "Sarusara Sipiri Geyin Govi Bimata" has been started by using inmates' labour productively.
- A passing out parade for 195 newly recruited prison guards including 175 male and 20 female officers of 103-B Batch, was held at the Angunakolapelessa prison ground.

4.6.6 Financial Progress

Description	Allocation (Rs.Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn.)	Financial Progress 30.09.2022
Recurrent Expenditure	8,705.89	5,248.18	60.20%
Capital Expenditure	399.71	196.22	49.00%
Total	9,105.60	5,444.40	59.80%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.7 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS

3.7.9 Introduction

Implementation of community-based corrections was initiated in Sri Lanka as a pilot project under the Ministry of Justice in 1999. This pilot project which was started based on orders delivered by only 03 courts by the operation of the Community-based Corrections Act, No.46 of 1999, came under the control of a Department of the Ministry in 2008 and in May, 2018 this Department once again came within the purview of the Ministry of Justice and Prison Reforms. At present, 125 Circuit Courts and Magistrate's Court throughout the country deliver community-based correction orders. Reference of minor offenders to the community-based correction relieves the prison overcrowding, reduces the huge expenditure incurred on the maintenance of prison inmates, prevents the minor offenders from association with organized and hard-core criminals in serving the imprisonment, affords minor offenders an ample opportunity to correct life through a meaningful rehabilitation process etc.

One of the main objectives of the community-based correction order directed by the court for those committing minor offences is to allow such minor offender a chance to correct his misbehavior within his own community itself alternative to serving sentence of incarceration.

Officers of the Department of Community-based Corrections attached to Regional Offices of the Department that are located affiliated to the Magistrate's Court implements various correctional programmes to accomplish the correction. The Department of Community-based Corrections intends to take the minor offender serving correctional order into the right path under the strict supervision and monitoring of its officers.

As it becomes a timely need not only to take the convicts into the right path but also attempts must be highly placed to prevent those who tend to commit offences, the Department itself, giving much emphasis to that end, has expand its role than its inception. To take these arrangement effect, the Development Officers have already been placed at Divisional Secretariat level.

4.7.2 Services

1. By the operation of the Community-based Corrections Act, No.46 of 1999, correction of the minor offenders within the community itself alternative to incarceration serving imprisonment.
2. Relieve the prison overcrowding and burden of expenditure on the government by way of reducing the number of minor offenders to be directed to serve imprisonment.
3. Engagement of the labour of those who are subject to correctional orders, for the development of the country.
4. Development of families of those who are subject to correctional orders and of the persons who are posing risks at the community.

4.7.3 Details regarding the performance

1. Number of offenders issued by the Magistrate Courts By province wise (2022.01.01 – 2022.09.30)

Province	No of offenders
Western	1,704
Central	622
Uva	404
Southern	475
Sabaragamuwa	366
Eastern	404
North western	442
North central	263
North	641
Total	5,321

2. Details of correction orders - from 2022.01.01 to 2022.09.30

Number of correction orders given	Number of orders completed	Number of Breach
5,321	3,332	1,304

*(Other Cases are currently pending)

3. The number of Correctional and Other programs conducted for offenders - From 2022 01.01. to 2022.09.30

	programs	Number of program
1	Treatments / drug prevention programs	684
2	Vocational training programs	148
3	Spiritual programs	449
4	Implementation of tree planting programs	212
5	Implementation of public place cleaning programs	1,105
6	Home economic financial management	223
7	Small business management	34
8	Product marketing preparation and marketing process	24

9	Send the offenders to the department of small business management to get their help to start small business	40
10	Giving donations to conduct suitable self-employment	31
11	Conducting community awareness programs for community based organizations (covering grama niladhari divisions)	607
12	Special awareness programs for community (mobile services/ special days and etc...)	119
13	Awareness programs for government officers (covering divisional secretariats)	144
14	Awareness programs for lawyers and court registers	25
	Total	3,845

4.7.4 Financial Progress (From 2022.01.01 to 2022.09.30)

Description	Allocation for 2022 year	Expenditure up to 2022.09.30	Financial percentage up to 2022.09.30
Recurrent Expenditure	519.85	356.99	69%
Capital Expenditure	9.79	3.90	40%
Total	529.64	360.90	68%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.8 BUREAU OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF

4.8.1. Introduction

The Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation (BCGR) engaged in the task of rehabilitating and reintegrating the misguided ex combatants who surrendered to the government forces at the end of the three decades' war. Thereafter, since year 2013 the BCGR commenced the rehabilitation of dangerous drug addicts who were directed on the orders of the courts of law. 12194 of mislead ex-combatants have been rehabilitated successfully so far. The rehabilitation process for drug addicts involves a residential rehabilitation programme at the Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, Kandakadu, the Tertiary and Vocational Literacy Training Centre, Senapura and Reintegration Centre, Vauniya.

The period of rehabilitation of these rehabilitees spans out for one year and the preliminary process of rehabilitation gets underway during the first six months with individual and group counseling programme. Thereafter they are directed to vocational training and counseling programmes for another six months. Measures have been taken to provide the rehabilitees so referred for rehabilitation with mental health, spiritual programmes, varied methods of therapies, educational and information technology, leadership and personality development training, aesthetic programmes, sports programmes, livelihood improvement and self-employment programmes and vocational training in a methodical manner under the guidance and supervision of professional in the respective fields.

Furthermore, after their reintegration into the society following the period of their rehabilitation a system is adopted for Socio, economic, and welfare activities of rehabilitated persons by the Post Rehabilitation Assistance Branch set up under the Bureau.

4.8.2. Performance Details from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

1. Rehabilitees as at 30.09.2022

Rehabilitation Center	Number of Rehabilitees	
	Drug Addicts	Ex Combatants
Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, Kandakadu	436	-
Tertiary & Vocational Literacy Training Centres, Senapura	38	-
Reintegration Centre, Vavuniya	142	02
Total	616	02

2. Number of Admissions and Reintegrated Rehabilitees from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Admissions of Rehabilitees	Reintegrated Rehabilitees
January	111	12
February	115	15
March	180	43
April	160	29
May	215	49
June	145	83
July	83	78
August	95	317
September	141	62
Total	1245	688

4.8.3 Programmes from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

S/N	Programmes	Number of programmes	Number of participates
1	Mental & physical development (Spiritual, counselling, yoga & various therapeutic programs)	184	All Rehabilitees
2	Educational programme (Sinhala, English & Tamil Languages, Technological Knowledge & special day celebrations)	65	All Rehabilitees
3	Leadership & personality programmes	09	550
4	Self-employment training programme	05	235

Vocational training conducted for rehabilitees

S/N	Courses	Number of programmes	Number of participates
1	Welding	1	14
2	Carpentry (Furniture)	1	17
3	Plumbing	2	17
4	Masonry	1	15
5	Carpentry (Buildings)	1	19
6	Gem Cutting and Polishing Training	1	13
7	Computer	1	16
8	Computer (Hardware)	1	13
9	Steward	2	52
10	Tailoring	1	21

11	Hair Dressing	1	19
12	Bakery	1	26
13	Electrician	2	47
14	Aluminum Fabrication	1	19
15	Agriculture	1	14
16	Backhoe Loader Operator Training	2	39
	Total	20	361

4.8.4 Other Programmes

- Knowledge on life saving skills
- Basic Disaster Management skills
- Basic fire fighting skills
- Imparting the knowledge on first aid
- Awareness Programme on Organic Fertilizer
- Necessity of Preserving Water, Electricity, Forest and Environment
- The Importance of Protecting the Coast belt / beaches
- Peaceful living with the family
- Proper grooming of children to suit the modern world
- How to react to a Bomb Threat as responsible citizen
- Driving Licence for eligible Rehabilitees
- Medical Clinics for ENT, Eyes, Dental, STD, STD, Skin and Non Communicable Diseases.
- Ayurvedic Medical Clinics
- The importance of Historical and ancient places in Sri Lanka
- Ethical way of Using Mobile Phones and the Social Media

Post Rehabilitated Rehabilitees from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

S.No	District	Number of Reintegrated Rehabilitees	Number of follow up Completed as at 30.09.2022	Numbers yet to complete the fallow up process
1	Colombo I	1248	308	83
2	Colombo II	1133	105	165
3	Gampaha	1878	341	500
4	Kalutara	354	248	12
5	Galle	151	33	0
6	Hambantota	532	256	3
7	Kurunagala	670	195	8
8	Kandy	224	182	23
9	Puttalam	206	204	12

10	Anuradhapura	231	222	2
11	Polonnaruwa	57	77	4
12	Batticaloa	27	42	0
13	Jaffna	30	35	8
	Total	6741	2248	820

Programmes Conducted by the Post Rehabilitation offices from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

No	Programmes	Conducted Programmes
1	Awareness programmes for the students	109
2	Awareness programmes for the government officers	60
3	Counseling programmes	105
4	Public Awareness programmes	40
5	Other programmes	12
	Total	326

4.8.5 Financial Cost of the Development Programmes Conducted from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Programmes	Approved budget Rs.Mn.	Expenditure 30.09.2022 Rs.Mn.	Financial progress	Physical progress
Training & development programmes	23.34	14.33	61.37	82%
Post Rehabilitation	2.05	1.42	68.73	100%
Ration & Fuel	26.64	159.40	60.23	65.23%
Basic Initial issues	25.13	2.60	10.33	49.32%
Kitchen & equipment and other common requirements	20.68	7.40	35.82	60.51%
Purchasing office equipment	10.20	1.89	18.50	31.55%
Transport for project vehicles - Vehicle rent	38.61	25.07	64.93	73.9%
Building	258.97	118.86	45.90	74.14%
	643.62	330.95	51.42	66%

4.8.6 Financial Progress (From 2022.01.01 to 2022.09.30)

Description	Allocation (Rs.Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn.)	Financial Progress 30.09.2022
Recurrent Expenditure	239.47	151.81	63.39%
Capital Expenditure	643.62	330.95	51.42%
Total	883.09	482.76	54.67%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.9 MEDIATION BOARDS COMMISSION

Vision

Realization of reconciliation and coexistence through mediation.

Mission

Widely dissemination of an efficient alternative disputes resolution mechanism throughout the country for the benefit of the general public.

4.9.1 Introduction

- The Mediation Boards Commission was established by the operation of the Mediation Boards Act, No.72 of 1988.
- The primary objective of the establishment of Mediation Boards is to strengthen the mediation process as a dispute resolution mechanism alternative to litigation process more particularly the resolution of minor disputes which are often brought before the courts and thereby relieving of the backlog in the entire court system.
- The Mediation Boards Act provides for the Mediation Boards to act as a mediator involving as a third party in resolving disputes through the mediation process between two or more disputing parties.
- As the community treats the mediation process to be a convenient and law cost mechanism in settlement of their disputes, nearly three hundred thousand disputes are referred to Mediation Boards annually for mediation.
- The progress of the Mediation Boards is assessed on the basis of the number of disputes referred to the Mediation Boards coupled with the rate of percentage at which such disputes are settled.

4.9.2 The Composition, Powers and Functions

- **The Composition**

H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka appoints the Mediation Boards Commission consisting of five (05) persons for a term of three (03) years.

- **The Powers and Functions**

For the purpose of the Mediation Act, the Mediation Boards Commission takes the charge of matters pertaining to appointment, transfer, dismissal and exercise of disciplinary control over the Mediators; supervision and control of the performance and duties and functions of the Mediators; issuance of directions as may be necessary to such Mediators.

4.9.3 Functions discharged by the staff attached to the Mediation Boards Commission

1. In accordance with the Mediation Boards Act, establishment of Mediation Boards throughout the country and provision such Boards with necessary facilities including
 - ❖ Calling for nominations for the purpose of recruitment of Mediators, conducting interviews, recruitment of persons to be Mediators upon training offered at five day training workshops.
 - ❖ Facilitating dispute resolution process throughout the country by way of Panels of Mediators.
2. In terms of the provisions laid down in the Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act, No.21 of 2003, establishment of 05 Mediation Boards for providing the public with meaningful resolution relating to land disputes, based on the following administrative districts.
 - ❖ Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Kilinochchi
3. Establishment of School Mediation Units and conducting of School Mediation Workshops.
4. Raising awareness among the community towards the importance of Mediation.

4.9.4 Progress during the period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

No of which are Pending at the start of 2022	13,257
No of received disputes from 01.01.2022 to 31.08.2022	104,478
Total	141,735
No of discussed and settled disputes	36,064
No of discussed and non – settled disputes	17,333
No of discussed disputes	53,397
Percentage of settled disputes	67.54%
No of non-settlement disputes due to the absent of disputers	43,336
Percentage of discussed disputes	37.67%
Percentage of discussed disputes during the year	51.10%
No of refuse disputes	1,862
No of withdrawal disputes	4,416
No of the disputes which are finalizes	103,011
The disputes which are Forwarded	38,724

4.9.5 Categories of parties who referred disputes during the period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Category of Parties in terms of which Disputes are referred	The Number of Disputes Received	Number of Disputes Settled	Total Disputes	Percentage of Total Disputes Referred
Courts	12,141	7,837	5,788	11.60
Police Stations	31,619	21,457	13,949	30.00
Banks/ Financial Institutions	52,028	18,559	12,781	49.80
Disputants	7,969	5,163	3,256	7.60
Others	721	381	292	0.70
Total	104,478	53,397	36,064	

4.9.6 Settlement of disputes at provincial level during the period from 01.01.2022to 30.09.2022

Province	Number of disputes taken up for disposal	Number of disputes discussed	Number of disputes settled	Percentage %
Western	19,092	8,954	5,100	18.00%
Central	14,358	7,173	5,148	13.70%
Southern	13,972	7,291	4,760	13.40%
North-Western	12,540	6,797	5,233	12.00%
North Central	11,509	5,400	3,964	11.00%
Uva	8,486	3,995	2,916	8.10%
Sabaragamuwa	12,078	6,010	3,703	11.60%

Eastern	8,537	5,527	3,726	8.20%
Northern	3,906	2,250	1,514	3.70%
Total	104,478	53,397	36,064	

4.9.7 Special Mediation Boards

Land Mediation Boards

serial no.	Center	Number of disputes reported	Number of disputes discussed
01	Batticalo	162	353
02	Kilinochchi	115	38
03	jaffna	183	17
04	Vauniya	441	174
05	Trincomalee	162	65
06	Mannar	111	65
07	Anuradapura	251	150
Total		1425	862

4.9.8 Other information related to the progress from 01.01.2021 to 30.09.2021

Progress of gazetting mediation boards, conducting interviews and giving appointments

S/N	Discription		Expected number of mediation boards according to the action plan	The number of mediation boards that could be done	Progress
1	Gazetting of the mediation boards at the end of the term		41	52	100%
2	Conducting of Interviews		73	40	54%
3	Conducting Training programs	Five day training programs	28	28	100%
		One day training programs	-	2	-
4	Granting Appointments		54	38	70%

Conducting Training programs for New Development Officers

S/N	Description	The number of Training Programs conducted
1	Five day Training programs on School Mediation	7

4.9.9 Plans from 01.10.2022 to 31.12.2022

S/N	Discription	Number of programs			Responsibility for Implementation
		October	November	December	
1	Community Mediation Boards for conducting interviews	2	10	8	Secretary (Mediation Boards Commission)
2	Community Mediation Boards for conducting five day training programs	4	5	5	
3	Community Mediation Boards for granting appointments	3	3	3	
4	Five day training programs to be held on School Mediation for new development officers	4	-	-	

4.9.10 Financial Progress

S/N	Description	Provisions for the year 2022 (Rs.m.)	Expenditure as at 31.08.2022(Rs.m.)	Financial progress as at 31.08.2022
1	Recurrent expenditure	390.64	249.02	63.74%
2	Capital expenditure	1.05	0.03	2.91%
	Total	391.69	249.05	63.58%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.10 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY LABOUR TRIBUNAL

Vision

Assurance of job security of the Employees attached to the non-government sector

Mission

Assurance of job security of the Employees attached to the non-government sector by way speedy, just and efficient mechanism of administration of justice with the assistance of the energetic, dynamic and trained staff.

4.10.1 Introduction

The primary task entrusted with the Labour Tribunals is to hear and determine applications tendered to them in terms of the Section 31(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, No.43 of 1950. The Labour Tribunals emerge as a way in arresting the injustice caused in consequence of arbitrary dismissal of employees from their employments in the non-government sector. At present, there are 39 Labour Tribunals functioned island wide.

For the smooth functioning and the proper maintenance of the Labour Tribunals, the Labour Tribunal Secretariat mainly takes the charge in providing necessary human resources and management services.

01.The Labour Tribunals presently functioning island wide are as follows –

	Labour tribunal	Whether permanent or Circute	Town
01	Labour tribunal no.1-Colombo 08	permanent	Colombo 08
02	Labour tribunal no.1 Additional Battaramulla	permanent	Battaramulla
03	Labour tribunal no.02 Additional Battaramulla	permanent	Battaramulla
04	Labour tribunal no.02 Colombo 08	permanent	Colombo 08
05	Labour tribunal no.03 Kandy	permanent	Kandy
06	Labour tribunal no.04 Galle	permanent	Galle
07	Labour tribunal no.05 Badulla	permanent	Badulla
08	Labour tribunal no.06 Ratnapura	permanent	Ratnapura
09	Labour tribunal no.08 Colombo 08	permanent	Colombo 08
10	Labour tribunal no.09 Kandy	permanent	Kandy
11	Labour tribunal no.10 Hatton	permanent	Hatton
12	Labour tribunal no.13 Colombo 08	permanent	Colombo 08
13	Labour tribunal no.18 Kalutara	permanent	Kalutara
14	Labour tribunal no.19 Awissawella	permanent	Awissawella
15	Labour tribunal no.21 Negambo	permanent	Negambo
16	Labour tribunal no.21 Add Negambo	permanent	Negambo

17	Labour tribunal no.22	Batticaloa	permanent	Batticaloa
18	Labour tribunal no.23	Kurunegala	permanent	Kurunegala
19	Labour tribunal no.24	Gampaha	permanent	Gampaha
20	Labour tribunal no.25	Panadura	permanent	Panadura
21	Labour tribunal no.26	Matara	permanent	Matara
22	Labour tribunal no.27 Anuradhapura		permanent	Anuradhapura
23	Labour tribunal no.28	Chilaw	permanent	Chilaw
24	Labour tribunal no.30	Kaduwela	permanent	Kaduwela
25	Labour tribunal no.31	wattala	permanent	wattala
26	Labour tribunal no.32 Lavinia	Mount	permanent	Mount Lavinia
27	Labour tribunal no.33	Homagama	permanent	Homagama
28	Labour tribunal no.34	Kotapola	permanent	Kotapola
29	Labour tribunal no.36 Bandarawella		permanent	Bandarawella
30	Labour tribunal no.37	Talawakele	permanent	Talawakele
31	Labour tribunal no.38 Nawalapitiya		permanent	Nawalapitiya
32	Labour tribunal no.39	Matale	permanent	Matale
33	Labour tribunal no.40	Balangoda	permanent	Balangoda
34	Labour tribunal no.42	kegalle	permanent	kegalle
35	Labour tribunal no.44	Ampara	permanent	Ampara
36	Labour tribunal no.46	Kuliyapitiya	permanent	Kuliyapitiya
37	Labour tribunal Trincomalee		permanent	Trincomalee
38	Labour tribunal Jaffna		permanent	Jaffna
39	Labour tribunal Embilipitiya		mobile	Embilipitiya

02.Number of Permanent Labour Tribunals is 38

03.Number of Circuit Labour Tribunals is 01

04.Number of Labour Tribunal Judges at present is 26

4.10.2 Progress from 01.01.2020 to 30.09.2022

Number of Cases Pending as at 01.01.2022	During the Period from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022		No. of Cases Pending as at 30.09.2022
	No. of Cases Filed	No. of Cases Concluded	
6,008	916	1381	5,543

4.10.3 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Allocation (Rs.Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn.)	%
Recurrent Expenditure	415.05	317.013	80.92%
Capital Expenditure	8.1	3.166	40.70%
Total	423.15	320.179	75.66%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

4.11 TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR NON JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Mission

Enhancement of efficiency and quality in the judicial service through training of scheduled and Non – Scheduled officers in the judicial service except for judicial officers so as to cope with the delay in the process of hearing and disposal of court cases with the prime object of providing the general public with a speedy and better service.

4.11.1 Introduction

This institute was established in 2010 in the court building in Palawatte, Battaramulla to fulfill the training requirements of Non-Judicial Officers who work at Courts. Accordingly, this training institute has conducted a number of programmes for the non-judicial officers in order to achieve the following objectives.

1. Development of attitudes and discipline
2. Awareness of and understanding the duties
3. Modernization and innovation
4. Elimination of bribery and corruption

4.11.2 Performance from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Training Programme Conducted

No	Training Programme	No. of Programmes	No. of Trainees
01	Induction Training Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For new Drivers & K K S recruited to the Ministry of Justice	01	63
02	Training Programme on filling system <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Development Officers & Management Service officers employed in the Ministry of Justice	01	32
03	Training Programme on price variation related to construction contract <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Technical Officers employed in the Ministry of Justice	01	22
04	Training Programme on Establishment Code <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Management Assistants employed in the Mediation Board• For Clerical Officers employed in the Attorney General's Department• For Stenographers employed in the Labour Tribunals	03	46

05	Training Programme on Attitude Development & Productivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Assistant Secretary Labour Tribunals employed 	01	13
06	Training Programme on Application of Information Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Assistant Secretary's Labour Tribunals employed For Stenographers employed in the Labour Tribunals 	02	28
07	Training Programme on establishment Code & Financial Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Assistant Secretary Labour Tribunals employed For Clerical Officers employed in the Attorney General's Department For Stenographers employed in Labour Tribunals 	05	87
08	Awareness Training Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Integration Co-ordination officers (In Kalutara & Colombo district) For Integration Co-ordination officers (In Gampaha district) For Assistant Secretaries of Labour Tribunals (Introduction Labour Tribunals) 	03	78
09	Training Programme on Financial Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Assistant Secretaries Labour Tribunals employed 	01	13
10	Training Programme on Criminal Law & Disciplinary Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For officers of the courts 	01	17
11	Civil Law & methods of accounting used in Magistrates' Courts & District Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For officers of the Courts 	01	17
12	Training Programme on Criminal Procedure & Disposal of production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For officers serving in Anuradhapura courts zone For officers serving in Polonnaruwa courts zone 	02	194
13	Training Programme on Civil litigation Procedure & Office Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For officers serving in Anuradhapura courts zone For officers serving in Polonnaruwa courts zone 	02	194
14	Training Programme on Discipline & Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For KKS employed in Attorney Generals' Department 	01	192

15	Training Programme on Tamil Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200-hour course • 150-hour course • 100-hour course 	03	205
16	Training Programme on improving attitudes & Communication Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Executive officers in Ministry of Justice 	01	34
17	Training Programme on Disciplinary procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Development Officers & Management Service officers employed in the Ministry of Justice 	01	64
Total		30	<u>1,299</u>

4.11.3 Other Information related to performance from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

No.	Date of held	Efficiency bar Examination	No. of Examinees
01	24.02.2022	First Efficiency Bar Examination for Assistant Secretary (Legal) Grade III officers of the Ministry of Justice & Assistant Secretary (Legal) Grade III Officers of the Law Commission Department	02
02	16.06.2022	Departmental Written Examination of the First Efficiency Bar for Sri Lanka Engineering Service Grade III officers serving in the Ministry of Justice	03
03	21.06.2022	First Examination bar for Management Service Officers (Non-Technical) category 02) belongs to the departmental clerical service – grade III of the Attorney General’s Department	25

4.11.4 Financial Progress

Description	Allocation (Rs.Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn.)	%
Recurrent Expenditure (Other Operational Expenses)	3.97	2.45	62%
Capital Expenditure	5.00	1.61	32%
Total	8.96	4.06	45%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

05. PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC ENTERPRISES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

5.1 LEGAL AID COMMISSION (LAC)

Vision

Equal access to justice for all Sri Lankans.

Mission

To provide equal access to justice by way of offering legal aid to the deserving persons in the country in consequence of their inability to have access to justice due to poverty, providing legal assistance free of charge to low income groups, raising awareness among the society on law and advising to the government in making new laws and law reforms.

5.1.1 Introduction

The Legal Aid Commission is a statutory institution established by the Legal Aid Act no. 27 of 1978. The key objective is to provide legal aid to the Sri Lankans who have been deprived of access to Justice due to poverty. Granting free legal assistance to low income people in their litigations, providing legal advice to any person, educating the entire society about law, involving as a counsel to the Government during legislation of new laws and legal reforms, and conducting research are amongst the other roles played by the Commission.

Legal Division

1. Appearing before Courts on behalf of persons who are incapable of securing justice by themselves.
2. Providing free legal advice to any person.
3. Acting as a counsel to the Government during legislation of new laws and legal reforms.

There are 85 Legal Aid Centers including the Legal Aid Centre in Colombo which operates directly under the Head Office. They are established in association with Courts across the island. Although a revenue report summoned through the Grama Niladari is taken in to account during judicial matters, it will not be considered in litigation regarding maintenance, domestic violence, victims of crimes and children.

Service provided by the Legal Division

The Legal Aid Commission has implemented an initiative to collect data and information through Google Sheet coordinating the details related to litigation matters including legal counseling at 85 centres of the Legal Aid Commission located island wide. This will facilitate as well as accelerate the functions of the legal division.

5.1.2 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022 Description of Cases to which the Legal Aid Commission has Rendered their Service.

Description of Cases	Number of Cases
Number of cases carried forward from the year 2021 to 2022	38099
Number of new cases filed from January to September 30 th in the year 2022	8568
Total cases prevailed as at 30 th September in the year 2022	46667
Number of cases closed from January to September 30 th in the year 2022	7931
Number of cases carried forward to 01 st October in the year 2022	38736
Total counselling rendered from January to September 30 th in the year 2022	89557
Overall service from January to September 30 th in the year 2022	<u>44667+89557=136224</u>

b) Appearance for New Cases

Type of Case	Number of New Cases Filed (From 01st January to 30th September 2022)
Divorce	1652
Maintenance	4973
Land	110
Partition	4
Compensation (money / Damages)	215
High Court	48
Court of Appeal	42
Compensation for Accidents	126
Bail	36
Other (MC)	314
Child Rights	110
Labour Tribunal	282
Criminal	172
Supreme Court	36
Victims of Crime	248
Special (DC)	58
Guardian Adoption	24
Domestic Violence	118
Total	8568

c) **Service Provided by the Legal Aid Commission (at Provincial Level)**

Province	Counselling Provided	Appearance for Cases	Total
Western	22194	11780	33974
Uva	10009	3417	13426
Southern	11455	5705	17610
Northern	6416	4324	10740
Sabaragamuwa	6995	3577	10572
North-Western	11235	5051	16286
Central	7044	3762	10806
Eastern	6788	4998	11786
North Central	7421	4053	11474
Total	89,557	46,667	136,224

5.1.3 1 Programmes and Project Unit

- Programmes to which the Resource Contribution of the Legal Aid Commission was rendered for Raising Awareness and Social Participation- 182
- Media Programmes -36
Radio and Television Programs - 05

Media	Date
Jathika Rupawahini (TV)	20.02.2022
Haritha TV	03.03.2022
Siyatha TV	19.03.2022
Colombo TV	01.09.2022
Jaya TV	13.09.2022

Printed Media Programmes - 31

In the second quarter, Media Unit of the Legal Aid Commission has given its contribution by editing contents under the topic of “Know the Guide line right and then *fight* ” of 27 *Mawbima* News papers and contents under the topic of “*Law Check*” of 04 *Ceylon Today* News papers.

- Number of Awareness programmes on Law organized by the Legal Aid Commission -57
- Number of Awareness programmes on Law to which the Legal Aid Commission has contributed through providing resource persons in respect of invitations received - 89

5.1.4 Developmental Legal Aid Division

1. Information on Migrant Workers Unit.

This unit is dedicated for the migrant workers who are faced with problems. After providing the consultancy service, they will be directed to the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for judicial matters when necessary. The unit works in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), overseeing 17 praja mula bodies called “Gami Sansadaya” (Village Forum) at Divisional Secretariat level, to raise awareness of migrant workforce families and to collect their details.

2. Prison Inmates Unit

This unit functions with the objective to minimalize the traffic within prisons in Sri Lanka, to provide easy access to all people and to minimize the Government costs. The unit works in collaboration with the Department of Prisons. Assistance of attorneys will be provided through this, to obtain bail and minimize the bail conditions for the persons who have been detained in prisons in Sri Lanka for a long period of time being unable to obtain legal assistance. The unit also conducts legal clinics for prison inmates, providing them the legal knowledge necessary to maintain the day-to-day life and conducts programmes to provide legal knowledge to prison officers.

Accordingly, the Legal Aid Commission has worked in collaboration with the UNDP to proceed with the legal clinics related to prisons in Sri Lanka and the bail procedure during the period from January to 30th September utilizing zoom technology due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation that prevailed. Accordingly, 36 bail cases have been filed during this period as new cases.

3. Training Programme for Apprentice Lawyers

It is affiliated with the Sri Lanka Law College. The purpose is to train amateur lawyers who take oaths as lawyers a year. Between January and September 30th this year, apprentice lawyers have been trained under one batch, and the commission has obtained the external service of senior veteran presidential counsels and resource persons.

4. Internship Programme

Law student internship programme was conducted by Legal Aid Commission during the year 2022 and participate 12 law student from faculty of law

5. Awareness Programme on Law for Medical Officers

The objective is to raise awareness on Law among Medico-Legal Officers, Medical Officers of Health and Psychiatrists and to develop professional skills of medical professionals during judicial procedures. Coordination has been done with Medical Officers of Health during the period from January to 30th September utilizing Zoom technology due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

6. Programme for the Beneficiaries of Samurdhi

The Legal Aid Commission in collaboration with the Department of Samurdhi has created a data base by collecting details of the Samurdhi beneficiaries with legal problems through which a prompt legal consultancy service for the legal issues that the low-income Samurdhi Beneficiaries are faced with, and a mechanism to solve their legal problems free of charge by giving priority to litigation and thus to administer Justice has been arranged.

5.1.5 .Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Total Provisions Receivable for the year 2022 (Rs. M)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2022 (Rs. M)	Financial Progress at 30.09.2022
Recurrent Expenditure	235.5	203.85	86%
Capital Expenditure	10.0	3.30	33%
Total Expenditure	245.10	206.88	85%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.2 SUPERIOR COURTS COMPLEX BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Vision

The vision of the Board of Management is to develop the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management in to the best managed statutory Board in the Country.

Mission

The Mission of the Superior Courts Complex Board of Management is to maintain and further develop the existing building facilities and Infrastructure so that all involved in judiciary and legal profession using these facilities may be provided a very conducive environment which will help them to perform their activities with a view to bring out efficient, fair and Just service for the litigants and thereby to achieve the above vision.

5.2.1 Object

The object of the Board shall be to control, administer, manage and maintain the Superior Courts Complex, and the buildings thereon and to make such additions, alterations and improvements thereto as may be necessary to enhance the amenities of the complex and the buildings thereon.

Following activities and Purchasing are processes to achieved of above Vision, Mission and Object of SCCBM,

1. Provide necessary facilities and requirements for all the court rooms
2. Provide necessary facilities and requirements for Hon Judges chambers
3. Provide necessary facilities and requirements for Lawyers of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal
4. Public Liability Insurance and Accident Insurance for the Public (3rd Party)

5.2.1.1 Maintenance Expenditure:-

a) Plant & Machinery Equipment

- Lift Maintenance Service for SCC Building
- Telephone Maintenance Service for SCC Building
- Central A/C system i.e. Chillers and Split Air Conditioners Maintenance Services for SCC Building

- Equipments Maintenance Service for SCC Building
- Electrical Pannels and Electrical Items Maintenance Service for SCC Building

b) Repairs and Refurbishment of Superior Courts Building

c) House Keeping Maintenance

- Janitorial Service for Superior Courts Complex
 - Pest Control Service for Superior Courts Complex
 - Laundry Service for Superior Courts Building and Judges Quarters
- d) Gardening Maintenance for Superior Courts Complex
- e) Extra Security Service for Superior Courts Building
- f) Accommodation for Security and Engineering Staff of SCC
- g) Maintenance of Vehicles for Superior Courts

6. Supplies & Requisites:-

- Purchase of Stationeries & office requisites
- Fuel for Superior Courts Vehicles
- Purchase of Mechanical & Electrical Goods
- Purchase of Uniforms for Superior Courts Selected staff
- Purchase of House keeping Requisites. Eg: Sanitizer and Sanitary items etc

Capital Expenditure

Refurbishment & Improvements of Building

- Repairing Roof Work of RR Building (Civil Appeal High Court)
- Payment of Repair Roof and Water Leakage & Gutter in Judges Flat
- Repairing of Steel Boundary Fence in SCC

a).Acquisition of Fixed Assets:-

Purchase of Plant & Machinery

- Supply and Installation CCTV Cameras
- Supply and Installation Air conditioners

b).Purchase of office Equipment and Furniture

Purchase of House Keeping /Security Equipment

4. Human Resource Management

- Staff Training for Capacity Development

5.2.2 Financial Progress as at 30th September 2022

Description	2022 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30th Sept. 2022 (Rs.Mn)	Progress as at 30th Sep: 2022 (%)
Recurrent Expenditure	215.47	136.40	63%
Capital Expenditure	20.00	7.00	35%
Total	235.47	143.40	61%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.3 SRI LANKA JUDGES' INSTITUTE

5.3.1 Introduction

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute was established by Act No. 46 of 1985. This institute is managed by a Board of Management which consists of 5 members including the Hon. Chief Justice and two judges of the Supreme Court appointed by His Excellency the President. The required provisions to this institute are allocated by the Ministry.

Subjects and Functions of the Institute:-

- I. To provide facilities for the exchanging of views and ideas on judicial and legal matters among judicial officers.
- II. To organize and hold meetings, conferences, lectures workshops and seminars with a view to improving the professional expertise of judicial officers and advancing their knowledge and skills.
- III. To formulate and conduct training and research courses in various aspects of the administration of justice.
- IV Providing library facilities and other educational material for judicial officers.

5.3.2 Workshops, Seminars and Webinars held from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

	Workshop, Seminar/Webinar	Participated Judges	No of Sessions	No of participants	Cost
01	Judicial Induction Program 2021/2022 (Annexure 01)	Newly recruited District Judges and Magistrates	38	46	Nil
02	Webinar on "Modern Cyber Crimes/ Electronic Evidence Applicability and Appreciation"	All Judicial Officers who are exercising Criminal Jurisdiction	01	175	Nil
03	Orientation Program for newly recruited High Court Judges – 2022	High Court Judges	01	13	Nil
04	Webinar on - "Procedure under Debt Recovery (Special Provinces) Act, No. 2 of 1990, Finance Leasing and Consumer Credit Act"	All the judicial officers who are exercising civil jurisdiction	01	136	Nil
05	Webinar on - "Evaluation of Evidence in Criminal Cases; A Practical Approach"	All the Judicial Officers who exercise the criminal jurisdiction and the newly recruited Judicial Officers	01	157	Nil

06	Webinar on - “Adoption of Electronic Evidence in Labour Tribunal Proceedings”	Labour Tribunal Presidents	01	29	Nil
07	Webinar on mental health and well-being for judges in collaboration with Ceylon College of Physicians	Most senior 80 District Judges and Magistrates	01	80	Nil
08	Residential Workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights for Judges	High Court Judges, District Judges	01	30	Nil
09	Judges Colloquium-Awareness Programme and Dialogue for the High Court Judges on the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses	High Court Judges	01	49	Nil
10	Residential Workshop on Criminal Pre-trial Procedure for the High Court Judges in line with the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2022	High Court Judges	01	38	Nil
11	Webinar on - “Refresher training on the Budapest Convention, cybercrime and electronic evidence for Judges and Magistrates” in collaboration with Council of Europe, Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+) project	Magistrates in all provinces except Western Province	01	20	Nil
12	Webinar on Refresher training on the Budapest Convention, cybercrime and electronic evidence for High Court Judges in collaboration with Council of Europe, Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+) project	High Court Judges	01	20	Nil
13	Judges Colloquium-Awareness Program and Dialogue for the Judicial Officers on the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No. 04 of 2015	Judicial Officers in Western Province	01	50	Nil
14	Remedial and Preventive Measures to Reduce Prison Overcrowding: Judicial Response	Magistrates in Central Province, North Central Province, Uva Province and Sabaragamuwa Province	01	40	Nil

15	Residential Workshop on Bail and Sentencing for Judicial Officers	Judicial Officers from Southern Province, North Western Province and few Judicial Officers from Colombo and Kandy Districts.	01	50	Nil
16	Workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights	Civil Appellate High Court Judges from Western Province, Southern Province and Sabaragamuwa Province and Judicial Officers who exercise civil jurisdiction from Southern Province and Sabaragamuwa Province.	01	34	Nil
17	Workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights	Civil Appellate High Court Judges from Central Province, North Central Province, Northern Province, North Western Province, Eastern Province and Uva Province and Judicial Officers who exercise civil jurisdiction from Central Province, North Central Province, Northern Province, Eastern Province and Uva Province.	01	36	Nil

5.3.3 Financial Progress as at 30th September 2022

Description	2020 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30 th Sept. 2020(Rs.Mn)	(%)
Recurrent Expenditure	17.00	9.60	56.51%
Capital Expenditure	41.50	5.67	13.66%
Capital Expenditure	58.50	15.27	26.10%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.4 THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

5.4.1 Introduction

As per the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, No.04 of 2015 the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses has established in order to protect the victims of crime and witnesses. This Authority is controlled by a management board and 36 officers are at the present. The objective of this Act is to strengthen the course of administration of justice by identifying a proper legal framework to protect the rights of the victims of crime and witnesses.

5.4.2 Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

5.4.2.1 **Complaints received**

The number of complaints received to the Authority from January 2022 to 30thSeptember 2022.

Complaints/Requests	2022
1. Regarding infringement of entitlements and rights	59
2. Requests seeking protection	71
3. The offences coming under section 8,9 for investigation	32
4. Requests seeking assistance	08
Total complaints received during the relevant period	170

Infringement of entitlements and rights

Number of complaints brought forward from 2021	62
Number of complaints already received during 2022	59
Total	121
Number of complaints investigated	45
Number of complaints under investigation	76

Requests seeking protection

Year	Number of Complaints	Complaints which are under investigation and are being provided with interim protection	Complaints which are being provided with Protection	Number of settled complaints	Complaints forwarded for the advice of Attorney General
Complaints brought forward from the previous years	159	27	53	78	01
Until 30 th September 2022	71	51	13	07	-
Total	230	78	66	85	01

Investigation of the offences coming under section 8,9

Number of complaints brought forward from 2021	44
Number of complaints already received during 2022	32
Total	76
Number of complaints investigated	30
Number of complaints under investigation	46

Orders received from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Commission orders -02

Court Orders - 06

Year	Number of Commission and Court orders	Orders which are under investigation and are being provided with interim protection	Orders which are being provided with Protection	Settled Orders
Orders brought forward from the previous years	63	02	20	41
Until 30 th September 2022	08	03	05	-
Total	71	05	25	41

- 14 evidence obtaining sessions were conducted through audio visual linkage system so far during 2022.
- The number of 09 victims who were provided with protection by the Authority under the transport facility criteria for participating in court proceedings and they have been provided with the necessary protection in 29 trips to and from the court during 2022.

5.4.3 Conducting awareness programmes

01. Access to Justice Mobile Service–Kilinochchi and Jaffna (From 26th to 30th January 2022)

Objectives: Providing services to the citizens of the area and conducting awareness programmes for government officials as well as for general public.

Participation: Honorable Minister of Justice Ali Sabri including Ministers and officials of the Ministry of Justice, officials of the authority, officials of the district and divisional secretaries of the Northern Province.

Venue: Kilinochchi Central College and Jaffna Central College.

02. Awareness and Sensitization Programme for Officers in charge of Crime Division in North Central Province Police Stations (3rd and 4th March 2022)

Objectives: To educate and sensitize Police OIC's of Crime Branch

Participation: Officers in charge of the Police Stations of the North Central Province, Scholars and Officers of the Management Board including the Director General of the Authority.

Location: Sudu Araliya Hotel, Polonnaruwa.

03. Public Awareness Programme conducted in collaboration with Transparency International-Sri Lanka (2022 March 27)

Objectives: To make awareness among public about the Authority and its services.

Participation: Rural Development Representatives (30) of Ekala-Jaala Area, Director-Policy and Programs of the Authority

Venue: New Salsa Institute, Ekala.

04. Conducting training programmes for newly recruited police officers with Kalutara Police College (July 26 and 27, 2022)

Objectives: To make awareness and sensitize police officers

Participation: 218 newly recruited Sub-Inspectors and 800 newly recruited Police Constables, Chairman of the Authority, Director General and Director (Legal and Law Enforcement) of the Authority, Director (Policy and Programme) of the Authority.

Venue: Police Training College, Kalutara.

05. Conducting a programme for High Court Judges (August 6 and 7, 2022)

Objectives: To make awareness and sensitize judicial officers

Participation: 40 Western Province High Court Judges, Supreme Court Judge Yasantha Kodagoda, Chairman of the Authority and members of the Management Board, Director-Policy and Programmes.

Venue: Bluewater Hotel, Wadduwa.

06. Conducting a programme for Magistrate/District Court Judges (20 & 21 August 2022)

Objectives: To make awareness and sensitize judicial officers

Participation: 40 Magistrates/District Court Judges of Western Province, Supreme Court Judge Mr. Yasanta Kodagoda, Chairman of the Authority and Members of the Board of Management, Director General and Director (Policy and Programmes) of the Authority.

Location: Citrus Hotel, Waskaduwa.

07. Conducting a technical workshop for newly recruited officers of the Police Assistance and Protection Division (August 26, 2022)

Objectives: To make awareness and sensitize the new officers of the Police Assistance and Protection Division and to discuss the issues they are currently experiencing.

Participation: 25 newly recruited police officers from the Police Assistance and Protection Division attached to the Authority, Chairman of the Authority and members of the Board of Management, Director General and Director (Policy and Programme) and Director (Legal and Law Enforcement)

Venue: Water's Edge Hotel, Battaramulla.

5.4.4 Other activities

- A training programme on Zoom technology was conducted for 10 officers of the Authority on May 26, 2022 by Information Technology Resource Development Authority at National Authority premises. (Western Province)
- Prepared the 2020 Annual Report of the Authority and submitted them to the Cabinet through the Ministry of Justice and submitted copies to the Parliament.
- In collaboration with the Victim Support Asia, an international organization that provides support to victims via participating in one of their competitions, two victims who sought support from the authority were granted US\$1000 (about Rs 330,000.00) to each Victim to reduce the damage caused by the victimization.
- Purchased household equipment for the Safe house.
- The Protection Fund of the Authority has been established in terms of Section 29 of the Crime Victims and Witnesses Protection Act No. 4 of 2015 and by 30.09.2022 it has increased to 16.09 million.

5.4.2 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

	2022 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30th Sept. 2022 (Rs.Mn)	(%)
Recurrent Expenditure	49.47	31.24	63%
Capital Expenditure	7.75	1.62	21%
Capital Expenditure	57.22	32.86	57%

Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.5 Office for the National Unity and Reconciliation

5.5.1. Introduction

1. Legal provisions relating to the Establishment of ONUR

The Office for the National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) was established under the authority of His Excellency the President by the Cabinet Decision dated 08th April, 2015 given in response to the Cabinet Memorandum dated 25th of March, 2015 submitted by Hon. Prime Minister.

In terms of Extraordinary No 1945/41 dated Gazette 18.12.2015, the affairs pertaining to national reconciliation were entrusted to ONUR under the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation.

As of now, this office functions under the Ministry of Justice Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Vision

Respecting and appreciating diversity and ethnic identity including equal opportunities for all citizens in the socioeconomic, cultural and political spheres and building a strong, sustainable, progressive, ideal and peace loving nation where all Sri Lankans coexist in unity and harmony

Mission

Promoting and realizing a society that respects fundamental rights, freedom, rule of law, equality and diversity and treats all citizens with dignity and without discrimination irrespective of their ethnicity, language, caste, age, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth and political ideology

Objectives

Recommending measures to be taken for the resolution of matters that lead to tension, mistrust and conflicts amongst various communities, implementing measures towards that end and monitoring same.

Making recommendations to the government regarding activities that create understanding, trust, harmony and unity among all communities and formulating, implementing and monitoring such recommendations.

5.5.2. Implementation of Programmes and Projects

1 **Project Name:** Education for Social Integration

Expected Outcome: National and provincial level policy for unifying harmony and social integration through the general education system.

Performance Indicators:

- (a) Number of programmes completed
- (b) Number of students participated

Physical Progress: From 1st January to 30th September 2022

Programme/ Project	Activities	Area	Target Group	Number	Funds (Local/Foreign)	Cost R.M.
Education	Sinhala/Tamil Language Course	All 25 districts	Young men and women. Preschool teachers	73 courses	Local	11.68

2.**Project Name:** Conflict Transformation Project(Inter faith dialogue)

Expected Outcome: Promoting inter-faith dialogues, inter-racial and intellectual dialogues for promoting national unity and reconciliation through conflict transformation.

Performance Indicators:

- (a) Number of training programmes conducted
- (b) Number of trainers trained
- (c) Number of officers trained
- (d) Number of inter-cultural dialogues held
- (e) Number of grass root level workshops conducted

Physical Progress: From 1st January to 30th September 2022

Programme/ Project	Activities	Area	Target Group	Number	(Local/Forei gn)	Cost Rupees
Conflict transformation	Training officers on reconciliation	Ampara, Ratnapura, Matara,, Galle, Trincomalee, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Nuwaraeliya, Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mulativu and Batticaloa districts	Public officials	14	Local	143,750 .00
	One-day programmes for raising community awareness on reconciliation	Ampara, Ratnapura, Matara, Galle, Trincomalee, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Nuwaraeliya, Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mulativu Districts	Young men and women, Religious leaders, Public officials, Civil society leaders, women	390	Local	8,850,0 00.00
	Capacity Development Programme for National Integration Officers	Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mulativu, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Matale, Kandy, Kegalle, Monaragala, Hambantota, Galle, Matara	National Integration Officers Community Corrections Officers	07	Local/Foreign (USAID SCOR)	346,767 .00/ 6,397,4 60.00
	community organization in the programme for creating an	All Divisional Secretary Divisions in the 25 districts	Community			

3. Project Name: Arts & Culture for Reconciliation

Expected Outcome: Using arts and culture as an instrument for the ongoing reconciliation process.

Performance Indicators: Number of productions done (films, drama, theatre, arts and other creations relating to various forms of arts)

Physical Progress: From 1st January to 30th September 2022

Programme : Arts and culture (Local Funds)

Activities	Area	Target Group	Number	Cost Rupees
Celebrating interreligious & cultural festivals in harmony – Thaipongal 2022	Sabaragamuwa, Western, Southern, Uva & North Central provinces	General	10	845,588
Independence Day Celebration – Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation integrated programme	Entire island	General	1	270,000
Art for Peace Programme	Southern Province	School children	1	75,100
North South exchange programme	Northern and Southern Provinces	General	1	171,400
‘Sanhinda’ musical programme	Entire island	General	1	1,320,000
‘VasanthayaObai’ TV programme	Entire island	General	1	1,620,000
Radio programmes	Entire island	General	1	540,000
Cultural exchange programme between Nuwara Kalaviya area and Vanni	North Central and Northern Provinces	Artistes	1	52,000.00
‘Doramadalawa’ discussion programme	Entire island	General	1	540,000
Arts & cultural projects implemented through District Secretariats – 3 rd quarter	Hambantota, Matara, Badulla, Gampaha & Kalutara districts	General	5	969,030
Payment of bills in hand			3	465,672
			26	6,868,790

4. Project Name: Media & Communication

Expected Outcome: Communication strategies adopted for national unity and reconciliation in partnership with various ministries and institutions and creating public interest

Performance Indicators:

- (a) Promoting intuitive strategic communication plan
- (b) Establishing interactive websites and social media platforms
- (c) Number of activities and programmes completed for the promotion of national unity and reconciliation

Physical Progress: From 1st January to 30th September 2022

Programme : Media and Communication (Local Fund)

Activities	Area	Number	Cost Rupees
Installing notice boards with messages of reconciliation	Kilinochchi, Rambewa, Vavuniya	3	1,166,666.00
Producing videos explaining the role of ONUR and subtitling them in Sinhala and Tamil	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vauniya, Mulativu Mannar	1	9,900.00
Producing and telecasting documentary for International Mother Language Day	Entire island	1	312,000.00
Expenditure for producing and telecasting single episode tele-drama to commemorate Independence Day	Entire island	1	650,000.00
Preparing exhibition stalls	Jaffna	1	489,000.00
Preparing exhibition stalls	Kilinochchi	1	489,000.00
Printing leaflets in Sinhala and Tamil languages describing the role of ONUR	Entire island	1000	180,000.00
Total			3,296,566.00

5. Project Name: Economic Engagement Programme

Expected Outcome:

- (a) Building lasting peace by uplifting living standard of people living in underserved and conflict prone areas of the North & East and other provinces through the development of livelihood and infrastructure facilities in such areas.

Performance Indicators:

- (a) Number of livelihood development projects implemented
- (b) Number of development projects implemented
- (c) Number of beneficiary families

Physical Progress: From 1st January to 30th September 2022

Target Group: Young men and women reintegrated into society

Programme/ Project	Activities	Area	Number	Cost Rupees
Economic engagement programme in Northern, Eastern and other provinces	Socioeconomic census of young men and women in the Northern & Eastern Provinces reintegrated into society	Mulativu District	2,500	-

6. Project Name: Rainwater Harvesting Project

This project is carried out with the financial assistance of Sri Lankan Rupees 300 million granted by the government of India for the construction 3000 rainwater harvesting units in the Jaffna district as a solution to acute potable water shortage prevailing in the Northern Province.

531 rainwater harvesting units constructed up to now under the first phase thereof have been handed over to the people.

Preliminary activities of the second phase of the project are now being carried out.

5.5.3 Other activities (From 1st January to 30th September 2022)

- Drafting the bill for the establishment of this office
- Revisiting the policy on reconciliation
- Framing the National Action Plan of this office.

- Preparing a report under several topics selected from the abridged version of texts of speeches delivered at the annual conference conducted by the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation based on the theme of “Resolving Differences through Understanding : Sustainable Peace, Security and Reconciliation in Modern Society” with the assistance of undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya attached to this office for internship training.
- Making available necessary information to the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Making available necessary information to the Human Rights Report of Sri Lanka compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Participating in inter-monthly joint meetings and providing required information continuously.
- Conducting planning workshops for civil society collaboration required for USAID, SCORE projects.
- Holding negotiations with British Council on the conduct of language programmes.
- Contributing to the development of National Action Plan for Prevention of Violent Extremism –UNESCO
- Negotiations are being conducted with the Japanese embassy on community participatory projects.

5.5.4 Financial Progress

Project	Provision	Cost	Progress
Education for social integration	28.40	11.68	41%
Conflict transformation project	59.27	13.86	23%
Arts and culture for reconciliation	15.5	6.86	44%
Public awareness and impact	9.50	3.40	36%
Economic engagement programme	3.00	-	-

5.5.5 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Estimate for the year 2022	Expenditure as at 30/09/2022	Percentage
Recurrent expenditure	29.52	18.33	62%
Capital expenditure	132.00	35.80	27%
Total	161.52	54.13	33%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.6 Office of Missing Persons

5.6.1 Introduction

The Office on Missing Persons, established under Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of Functions) Act No. 14 of 2016, is the permanent Transitional Justice mechanism in tracing the facts of missing and to safeguard the responsibilities which is the rights of affected people and the General Public. To achieve such objectives, the OMP has the mandate to conduct inquiries on the missing persons, to provide assistances to the recommended relatives of such missing persons, to establish a database on missing persons, to produce a guideline of assigned powers and functions, to enforce the Provisions of the Act and to make provisions for such related measures. The OMP will function regardless of the period where a person has gone missing. As such, the following measures have been taken by the OMP during the past as per the Provisions made by the Act.

- . The OMP effectively overlooks upon the disappearances which have been so far reported around Sri Lanka as well as the present reporting of disappearances. In addition, actions are being taken to gather information on missing, to overlook on such incidents and to assure non-recurrence of such missing incidents.
- . Measures are to be taken in order to continue the inquiry process on the missing persons. Accordingly, such inquiry processes are being undertaken within the Divisions where the families of such missing persons live. An amount of 1207 inquiries were conducted this year and the following recommendations are produced as per the needs of such affected families following the inquiry process. A plan has been devised to conduct 2000 inquiries within the rest of 03 months of this year and 5000 inquiries are expected to be conducted in 2023. The following recommendations are made in the inquiry apart from finding out the type of assistance
 - i. recommending to provide rehabilitation assistances to the affected families of missing persons.
 - ii. recommending to issue Certificate of Absence and Certificate of Death for the missing persons.
 - iii. providing guidance and assistance for the Education, Vocational Education, Sanitation, Housing Facility, Career Opportunities.
 - iv. creating mental health and social health programmes for the family members of missing persons
- II. To ensure the safety and security of the affected people, witnesses, social activists, media personnel and other related figures during the inquiry process and to expedite the actions to be taken relevant to such matters.

- To be the independent force or onlooker in case of legal proceeding of missing persons before the court of law.

5.6.2 .Regional Office Information

There are 05 Regional Offices established to enable the affected family members to easily obtain the services of the OMP. The respective offices are located in the following places.

1. Jaffna Regional Office – No. 123, Adiyapatham Road, Jaffna
2. Kilinochchi Regional Office – Kandy Road, Kilinochchi
3. Batticaloa Regional Office – No. 124, Main Road, Batticaloa
4. Mannar Regional Office – No. 05, Railway Station Road, Mannar
5. Matara Regional Office – No. 54, Darmarama Mawata, Matara Fort, Matara

Board Meeting Conducted

As of 30th September 2022, eighteen (18) meetings of Board of Directors have been conducted and many decisions were made on expediting the investigation process to trace the missing persons and to provide relief assistances to their family members.

Complaint, Actions and Progress

Total amount of the complaints received	Actions made
21,374	It is identified in the data analysis that out of the total complaints made, 3,742 complaints are related to military operation, 2,404 complaints are related to other instances and irrelevant to the O.M.P. Accordingly, 14,988 complaints are related to Civil Missing. Such complaints are categorized as follows and 1,207 complaints have been completed the inquiry process.

Periods of the incidents took place	Number of Complaints
Complaints before 1980	23
Complaints between 1981 and 1990	5,255
Complaints between 1991 and 2000	3,440
Complaints after 2001	6,270
Total complaints received (Civil Missing)	14,988

5.6.3. Financial Progress from 2022.01.01 to 2022.09.30

Description	2022 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30th Sept. 2022 (Rs.Mn)	(%)
Recurrent Expenditure	75.00	48.11	64.15%
Capital Expenditure	0.02	0.02	79.00%
Capital Expenditure	75.02	48.13	64.00%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

5.7 Office for Reparations

Vision

To create Reconciliation among Nationalities and ensure Human Rights through Economic and Social Prosperity.

Mission

To promote Reconciliation for the well being and Security of all Sri Lankans through implementing Reparations policies by empowering Aggreived parties.

5.7.1 Introduction

Office for Reparations Act No. 34 of 2018 was enacted to repeal the Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority Act No. 29 of 1987 and to provide for the provision for all matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and to identify aggrieved persons eligible for reparations and to provide provision of individual and collective reparations to such persons.

The cabinet approval was granted in August, 2021 for the reparations policies and guidelines formulated as required by the above Act. The approved reparations policies include eight (08) key interventions such as

- i. Livelihood support
- ii. compensation and financial support
- iii. restitution of lands rights
- iv. provision of housing
- v. community infrastructure development
- vi. administrative support
- vii. psychosocial support

- viii. measures to advance unity, reconciliation and non-recurrence of violence.

All initiatives of the OR are undertaken in a **victim centric** manner and programmes are being implemented in pursuance of key interventions identified in the Reparation Policy.

5.7.2 Functions of the Office for Reparations

The functions of the Office for Reparations are carried out under five thematic areas;

- (a) Policy formulation and implementation;
- (b) Grant of Reparations;
- (c) Establishing links to ensure compatibility with other mechanisms aimed at reconciliation;
- (d) Information Management and
- (e) Monitoring and Evaluation.

5.7.3 .Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

1. Livelihood Support-

- Five (05) Technology and Knowledge Transfer Programmes were held in the Districts of Jaffna, Mullaithivu and Puttalam
- Target Group- women-headed families, socially re-integrated trainees (ex-combatants), displaced community and people living in the border villages who directly suffered due to conflicts
- No. of beneficiaries- more than 300
- Material support has been provided for five (05) female entrepreneurs for new startups in the Jaffna District as a post-supervision programme

2. Compensation and Financial support-

- A total sum of Rs. 759 million has been set aside for compensation payments in the year 2022.
- No. of claims settled upto end of September- 3088 (Rs.225.2 million has been paid)
- Amount required to pay compensations for the files already processed for payments as at September 30th, 2022- Rs. 396 million (No. of claims to be settled - 2846)
- No. of files to be paid - 6620 (pending processing - 2020and,files processed and called for clarifications -4600)

3. Provision of Housing-

The OR undertook a special study to identify the housing needs of the displaced community in the Jaffna District. Special focus was given in identifying the issues on relocating the families living in open welfare camps. Discussions are being held at present to develop a sustainable resettlement plan.

4. Administrative support-

The OR held a mobile service “Access to Justice” in 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, and the documentation assistance was provided to more than 950 families who faced documentation issues. In addition, the OR works in collaboration with a local Civil Society Organization to provide documentation assistance for refugee returnees from India.

5. Psychosocial Support-

- The pilot programme was commenced in 2021 and completed in June, 2022
- The case managers were able to manage 131 cases from Batticaloa, Kilinochchi, Ampara, Kurunegala and Matara Districts.
- The referrals are being made based on the Needs Assessment
- An external evaluation was conducted by the OR in order to assess the success of this programme and to ensure the continuity of the programme
- A training manual was composed in three language for the continuous implementation of this programme
- 50 case managers (Sinhala medium – 24 and Tamil medium -26) from 21 districts have been trained so far
- It has been planned to establish a dedicated Psychosocial Support Unit at the OR to institutionalize this programme

6. Payment of special allowance to the families of missing persons-

The meeting was held with the Hon. Minister to discuss the Cabinet paper submitted by the Ministry in this regard. Following changes were proposed by the OR as decided by the Members of the Board-

- to consider increasing the payment of Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000 similar to the amount that is being paid to the aggrieved persons of the North and East Conflict;
- to waive off the requirement of the Certificate of Absence (COA) since the OMP conducts an in-depth inquiry to establish the case of missing

5.7.3.1 Financial Assistance

S. No.	Compensation Scheme	Number of claims	Amount Rs.
1	Payment of compensation to the properties of General Public damaged due to terrorist activities	2876	194.83
2	Payment of compensation to the properties of the Government Officers damaged due to terrorist activities	91	12.91
3	Most Affected Persons Compensation Scheme (General public and government officers injured due to terrorist activities)	10	0.38

4	Most Affected Persons Compensation Scheme (General public and government officers deceased due to terrorist activities)	36	4.50
5	Payment of compensation for the properties damaged due to the civil unrest occurred after the Easter Sunday Attack	1	0.32
6	Payment of compensation for the injured persons due to the civil unrest occurred after the Easter Sunday Attack	1	0.13
7	Rebuilding of the places of worship damaged due to terrorist activities	72	11.57
8	Payment of compensation to the properties damaged due to the civil unrest occurred in Kandy	1	0.60
	Total	3088	225.26

5.7.3.2 Loans

Type of the Loan	No. of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)
Self-Employment Loans	27	5.95
Self-Employment Loans for Socially Reintegrated Trainees	1	0.25
Housing Loans	5	1,.15
Total	33	7.35

5.7.4 Financial Progress

Description	2022 Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure as at 30 th Sept. 2022 (Rs.Mn)	(%)
Recurrent Expenditure	863.60	295.17	34.18%
Capital Expenditure	2.00	0.00	0%
Capital Expenditure	865.65	295.17	34%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

06. REGISTRIES OF SUPERIOR COURTS

6.1 THE REGISTRY OF THE SUPREME COURT

6.1.1 Introduction

The Supreme Court is the highest Court of the judicial system in Sri Lanka. The Supreme Court, which consists of 11 Judges including the Hon. Chief Justice appointed by His Excellency the President, hears all applications received by it. The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recognizes jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as follows: -

- Jurisdiction in respect of Fundamental Rights,
- Final Appellate Jurisdiction,
- Consultative Jurisdiction,
- Jurisdiction in Elections Petitions (Presidential election),
- Jurisdiction in respect of any breach of Privileges of the Parliament, and
- Jurisdiction in respect of such other matters which Parliament may vested by Law .

The Registry of the Supreme Court assists the Supreme Court to carry out its functions for which the Ministry of Justice grants provisions by the Head 234. The functions of the Registry of the Supreme Court includes:-

- Maintenance of the Record of the Supreme Court.
- Arrangements for sittings and schedule of applications.
- Record of Court Orders and Judgments.
- Enrolment of Attorneys-at-Law at the Supreme Court.
- Preparation of briefs received from the Court of Appeal and the assessment of legal costs.

6.1.2 Performance of 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Type	No. of Pending Cases as at 01/01/2022	No. of filed Cases from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	No of Pending Cases from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	No. of Concluded Cases From 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	No. of Pending Cases as at 30.09.2022
Fundamental Rights Applications	1,390	318	1,708	267	1,414
Special Application	600	276	876	152	724
Orders of the Supreme Court in respect of Parliamentary Bills	-	57	57	52	5
Appeal Cases	1,210	118	1,328	71	1,257
SC CHC Appeal	460	52	512	36	476
High Court Leave Application	190	103	293	59	234
Writ Applications	15	4	19	4	15
Provincial Appellate High Courts Cases	1,108	265	1,373	199	1,174
Revision Cases	4	3	7	2	5
Reference Cases	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous/Special cases	15	3	18	2	16
SC /Contempt	3	0	3	0	3
Rules	16	7	23	4	19
SC / Contempt	7	0	7	0	7
Expulsion	2	3	5	0	5
Acceleration	1	0	1	0	1
Total	5,021	1,209	6,230	848	5,382

6.1.3 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Allocation (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	%
Recurrent Expenditure	180.09	132.12	73.36%
Capital Expenditure	0.81	0.12	14.44%
Total	180.90	132.24	73.10%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

6.2 THE REGISTRY OF COURT OF APPEAL

6.2.1 Introduction

The Court of Appeal which was established under the Constitution of Sri Lanka has appellate and revisionary jurisdiction over the decisions of the courts of first instance, Jurisdiction of Labour Tribunals and other statutory bodies are following within the powers of Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal also has Writ jurisdiction. For the purposes of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act No.25 of 2002 and Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters Act No.39 of 2000, also terms under the provision of the Court of Appeal issues for the necessary orders and directions. The election petitions are also heard in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal has the power and authority to inspect and examine the records of any court of First instance or Labour Tribunal or any other legal institution.

6.2.2 Performance of disposal cases from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Cases	No. of Case Pending as at 01.01.2022	No. of Registered 01.01.2022- 30.09.2022	No of Total Cases	No. of Decided 01.01.2022 - 30.09.2022	Pending as at 30.09.2022
Writ Application	1,362	358	1,720	342	1,378
High Court Appeal -Criminal	1,047	128	1,175	319	856
Action in REM	5	-	5	4	1
Extradition (EXT)	1	-	1	1	-
Provincial High Court Appeal	883	142	1,025	379	646
Civil Appeal	43	-	43	18	25
High Court Revision Application	222	115	337	152	185
Revision (Civil) and Leave to Appeal Application	15	-	15	10	05
Tax Appeal	32	6	38	9	29
Other Application	193	41	234	51	183
Others					
High Court Bail Application Appeals (BAA)	0	7	7	-	7
Bail Applications (BAL)	46	71	117	62	55
Appeals from Wakf board (WKF)	05	01	06	03	03
Appeals from board of review (BOR)	07	-	07	02	05
Restitution in intergrum (RII)	52	19	71	18	53
Contempt of court (COC)	37	11	48	07	41

Cases	No. of Case Pending as at 01.01.2022	No. of Registered 01.01.2022-30.09.2022	No of Total Cases	No. of Decided 01.01.2022 - 30.09.2022	Pending as at 30.09.2022
Transfer(TRF)	09	04	13	13	-
Habeas Corpus application (HCA)	02	03	05	02	03
Right to information (RIT)	07	09	16	01	15
Injection (INJ)	01	05	06	06	-
MCR	09	06	15	02	13
Miscellaneous application (MIS)	05	02	07	04	03
Expulsion Cases (EXO)	01	-	01	01	-
Total	3984	928	4912	1,406	3,506

6.2.3 Progress of the other activities from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

As a result of updating the Appeal Court Case Data Management System, its staff including practicing lawyers can be obtained an efficient service. The system allows opportunities to know the next date and previous date of the cases including journal entries and proceedings without pursuing the case records physically.

The official web-site of the Court of Appeal which facilitates to know the calling time, next date and previous date of the cases including journal entries and proceedings by way of online is to be launched in due course.

6.2.4 The proposed plan to be implemented by the Court of Appeal with the objective of providing an efficient service –

1. The present Superior Court Complex Building is planned to be renovated with the funds of the Chinese Government and therefore it has been proposed to shifted the Appeal Court Registry to a separate location (Kaluthota Building) in due course, it is planned to obtain a Radio Link to maintain the connection of the case data management system to the new location from the old building.
2. Provision of Bar Code Readers to all Divisions of the Court to have a corrective and efficient service when entering the case data into the case data management system
3. Obtaining new pieces of computer apparatus to facilitate the staff of every Division to have access to the case data management system.
4. Obtaining new photocopy machines equipped with advanced technology to expeditiously issuing of certified copies and prompt preparation of copies of case records and obtaining the service of technical officers specialized in advanced technology to undertake repairs as and when arises.

5. Despite the necessary procedures pertaining to hearing of certain cases have been formulated in the courts other than that of the Court of Appeal, subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers and in compliance with the directions and guidance of the Department of National Archives, making arrangement to destroy and preserve case records enabling to have more spaces within the court premises.
6. Speeding up the process of administration of justice by way of environment friendly and efficient E-filing System (Institution of cases by way of electronic means) enabling to reduce the use of papers; a timely need.

6.2.3 Financial Progress from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022

Description	Allocation (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	%
Recurrent Expenditure	112.76	79.58	70.58%
Capital Expenditure	1.22	0.08	6.64%
Total	113.98	79.66	69.89%

(Remaining Provisions are to be incurred on projects proposed to be implemented within this year)

7 RELATED INSTITUTIONS

7.1 SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE

7.1.1 Introduction

Sri Lanka Law College operates under the Incorporated Council of Legal Education Act No 02 of 1900 to regulate legal education. The Chairmanship of the Council is held by the Hon. Chief Justice and the council consists of two Supreme Court judges nominated by the Hon. Attorney General, the Hon. Solicitor General, the Secretary of the Minister of Justice and Hon. Chief Justice, six members appointed by the Hon. Minister of Justice and two members of the Sri Lanka Bar Association.

Sri Lanka Law College conducts a 3 ½ year course and accordingly holds three examinations at the end of each year and in April, such as the first year, middle year and final year. Candidates who pass the examination are required to spend 06 months of apprenticeship under a senior lawyer with a minimum experience of 08 years before applying to the Supreme Court to take oaths as Attorneys-at-Law.

This institution is functioning as a self-financed organization. Professionals who practice law and work in other institutions are recruited to the Institute as external lecturers. They are President's Counsels or experienced Attorneys-at-Law.

7.1.2 Progress from 01.01.2022 to 15.08.2022

- One thousand four hundred and twenty three (1,423) students appeared for the April/October 2021 examination. Out of those students, eight hundred and forty one (841) students have passed the examination.
- One thousand two hundred and thirty nine (1239) domestic and foreign L.L.B. graduates have been enrolled for the course.
- Eight hundred (800) students have completed the apprenticeship year practical training program.