

BUDGET PROMISES: BEYOND PARLIAMENT

2023 MID YEAR ASSESSMENT

October 2023

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BUDGET PROMISES: BEYOND PARLIAMENT

“Budget Promises: Beyond Parliament” is a pioneering online platform that tracks the government’s performance in delivering on its budget promises.

The platform was launched in 2017 and seeks to answer two basic questions about the promises the government makes in its annual Budget Speech:

- Is the government doing what it is saying?
- Is the government saying what it is doing?

By giving the public access to the answers to these questions, the dashboard aims to;

- (i) Improve visibility of the government’s budget promises; and
- (ii) Hold it accountable for these promises.

HOW IT WORKS

The 2023 mid-year assessment tracked 25 expenditure proposals and 7 regulatory proposals explicitly proposed in the 2023 Budget Speech. While the former had expenditure allocations and resulting quantifiable outcomes, the latter required legislative enactments or regulatory notifications (gazettes) to have effect.

The platform is updated twice a year. Proposals are assessed using two indicators: Openness and Progress. The mid-year assessment assesses the progress and openness of the proposals for the first six months of the respective year.






While the research team tracked the online proactive disclosure of relevant information, it relied primarily on Right to Information (RTI) requests filed with implementing agencies via the Right to Information Act No.12 of 2016. For the 2023 mid-year assessments, the requests were filed on the following dates: 26th of July, 10th and 15th of August 2023. The information for assessment was accepted from agencies for a period of 21 working days. Any information received beyond this period was not considered for assessment.

OPENNESS TRACKER

This indicator tracks the extent to which the government is **saying what it is doing**. It measures the government’s level of disclosure of information about the implementation of each decision/proposal. In short, this indicator tracks transparency.

The mid-year assessment measures the extent to which the government has been open about disclosing information on the implementation of the first six months of progress on the proposals. The year-end assessment measures the government’s openness on disclosing information on progress for expenditure and regulatory proposals for the full year.





Openness is based on the information available at the time of assessment and is categorized as follows:

- 
Closed No information available.
- 
Restricted Information insufficient to determine any progress.
- 
Uncooperative Information provided upon request after much effort.
- 
Responsive Information available upon request in a timely manner.
- 
Open Information on progress disclosed voluntarily.

PROGRESS TRACKER

This tracks to what extent the government is **doing what it is saying**. It evaluates the level of progress of the government in implementing the promises, based on timelines and milestones established by the agency responsible.

For the mid-year assessment progress is categorised for expenditure proposals as follows:

- 
Undisclosed No information is available on the promise or available information is unusable
- 
Broken The promise has been dropped or postponed and is not scheduled for implementation in the year of assessment
- 
Neglected The promise is scheduled for implementation but not initiated
- 
Lagging The promise is being implemented but is behind schedule



Progressing

The promise is being implemented and is on track or ahead of target¹

For the year-end assessment progress is categorised for expenditure proposals as follows:



Undisclosed

No information is available to determine the status of the promise or available information is insufficient/unusable



Broken

No progress has been made on the promise or the promise has been removed from the action plan



Poor

Progress on the promise is less than 33% of the target



Partial

Progress on the promise is between 33% - 66% of the target



Substantial

Progress on the promise is between 66% - 80% of the target



Fulfilled

Progress on the promise is over 80% of the target

Progress is categorised for regulatory proposals as follows:



UNDISCLOSED

No information available to determine the status of the proposal or available information is insufficient/unusable.



NOT IMPLEMENTED

The required legislative enactment or regulatory notification (gazette) has not been published for any part of the proposal. This has been confirmed in writing by the relevant ministry/government institution.

¹ A promise is considered to be progressing if progress achieved as of 30 June of the budget year is within 90% of the target set for the period.



**PARTIALLY
IMPLEMENTED**

The required legislative enactment or regulatory notification (gazette) has not been published for some but not all parts of the proposal.



IMPLEMENTED

The policy proposal has been fully implemented. The legislative enactment or regulatory notification (gazette) required has been published for the full scope of the proposal and no further action is required.

FINDINGS IN DETAIL

Expenditure Proposals

Proposal	Openness	Progress	Agency
Continuing the Provision of Increased Allowances Paid to Beneficiaries of Samurdhi, Elderly, Differently-abled and Kidney Patients' Allowances	Closed	Undisclosed	Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, a circular dated 2023.02.06 issued by the Department of Samurdhi Development that lists down the instructions on the approval of recipients and cash transfers for January 2023 was available online. This circular has been shared with the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, National Secretariat for Elders and the National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities. However, no further information was proactively available online.</p> <p>A Right to Information (RTI) request was filed on the 15th of August 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or was received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	
Rehabilitation and Construction of Roads and Bridges Damaged by Floods	Restricted	Undisclosed	Road Development Authority
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, bidding documents were available online for the following: 1. Re-decking of the Garagoda Bridge Across the Kelani River on the Yatiyanthota-Magammana Road in the Kegalle District (Non-RDA); 2. Construction of the Rajamawatha Extension Road.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 23rd of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. Information was provided on financial targets and performance of certain sub-projects under the proposal for the first two quarters of 2023. However, information about targets and progress of activities accounting for nearly 50% of the total allocation was not provided. Thus, the information provided was insufficient to carry out an assessment of the overall progress of the proposal.</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency (Road Development Authority), the total allocation of Rs. 2,000 million was divided by province/division into five categories: Construction Division (Rs. 900 million), Sabaragamuwa Province (Rs. 397.17 million), Central Province (Rs. 449.99 million), Uva Province (Rs. 83.05 million) and Southern Province (Rs. 169.79 million). While information on progress had been given for certain sub-activities under the four provinces, physical targets/progress and financial targets/progress were not provided for the allocation under the construction division. Due to the unavailability of information to assess the progress of the construction division which accounts for nearly 50% of the total allocation, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed.</p>	
Improving Child Nutrition	Closed	Undisclosed	Ministry of Health
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	

Enhancing Flood Protection Systems	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 21st of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was relevant and useful to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Progressing</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the project has been strategised, and objectives have been established for the period between March-December 2023, encompassing both physical and financial targets (the project is expected to be completed by December 2023).</p> <p>The implementing agency has also provided information on actual physical and financial progress until June 2023. As per the information given, the physical target set for June 2023 is 20% and the project has exceeded its physical progress target, achieving 40% compared to the target of 20%. However, there is a significant shortfall in financial progress, with only Rs. 6.28 million spent out of the targeted Rs. 98 million. The financial progress is at 6.4%, which indicates that the project's spending is well below the planned budget as of June 2023.</p> <p>Overall progress was thus 103%.</p>	Ministry of Irrigation
New Economic Zone program for attracting foreign investments	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was received from the implementing agency via RTI request or proactively available online. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Investment Promotion

<p>Strengthening Elderly / Differently-abled / Widows as Household Entrepreneurs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Restricted</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 22nd of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was insufficient to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the initial RTI response from the implementing agency, it was stated that an inquiry had been submitted to the Department of Treasury Operations (DTO) on the 16th of June 2023 on the disbursement of funds to implement the proposal. However, the DTO had not responded to the implementing agency. Furthermore, it is expected to provide loans to 610 beneficiaries in 61 divisional secretariats.</p> <p>As per the second RTI response from the implementing agency (Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment), the initial RTI had been transferred to three agencies: National Secretariat for Elders, National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Samurdhi Development. The National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities, in response to the RTI transfer, had responded stating that funds have been allocated to the secretariat to implement this proposal. It is expected to provide grants to 100 disabled persons to expand their businesses. Applications received from all divisional secretariats are currently being processed to select potential beneficiaries. The program is expected to be completed by the 31st of December 2023.</p> <p>The information provided by the National Secretariat for Elders and the Department of Samurdhi Development in response to the RTI transfer was not specific to the aforementioned proposal and thus could not be utilised to assess progress.</p> <p>Given the nature of the information shared by the relevant agencies, an assessment cannot be carried out to gauge the progress of the proposal. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of sufficient information.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment</p>
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<p>Establishing 10 Agro-entrepreneurship Villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 21st of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Progressing</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the project has been strategised, and objectives have been established for both the third and fourth quarters of 2023 encompassing both physical and financial targets. The project had been approved by the National Planning Department on 1st June 2023 and an action plan has been prepared for a six month period commencing July 2023.</p> <p>Additionally, the information shared by the implementing agency highlights a revision from the original allocation of Rs. 250 million to Rs. 190 million. According to the revised action plan it is expected to establish 11 agro-entrepreneurship villages, though as per the budget proposal it was planned to establish 10 agro-entrepreneurship villages. The RTI response also identifies the Mahaweli Authority as the government agency responsible for the implementation of the proposal.</p>	<p>Ministry of Irrigation</p>
<p>Loan Scheme to Encourage Young Women Entrepreneurs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>The National Budget Department identified the Department of Development Finance as the implementing agency for the proposal. Thus, Verite Research filed an RTI request on the 26th of July 2023 with the Department of Development Finance. However, the Department of Development Finance responded that the aforementioned budget proposal was being implemented by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and requested that we submit an RTI application to the ministry to obtain the necessary information. Thus, an RTI request was filed with the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment on the 18th of August 2023. However, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment</p>

Investment Friendly Environment	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 16th of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lagging</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the project has been strategised, and an action plan has been prepared for 2023 encompassing quarterly physical and financial targets for each activity. The allocation of Rs. 200 million has been divided into two components: Rs. 50 million for recurrent expenses and the remaining Rs. 150 million for various activities. Notably, the tasks planned for this Rs. 150 million are being executed by a task force appointed by the Presidential Secretariat. It should be noted that financial targets up to the second quarter have been given for only four out of the six sub-activities, while financial progress has been given for only one sub-activity out of the six sub-activities. Physical targets up to the second quarter have been given for all activities, while physical progress has been given for only two out of the six activities. Thus, as per the information that was provided, physical progress averaged 30% and financial progress averaged 2% against the respective targets.</p> <p>Overall progress was thus 16%.</p>	Ministry of Investment Promotion
New Department for Cinnamon Industry	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, a cabinet decision on the establishment of a new department for cinnamon was taken on 2023.08.14 (Cabinet decision no. 8). Accordingly, the joint proposal made by the Hon. President and the Minister of Plantation Industries to establish a new department named as the Cinnamon Development Department was approved by the cabinet. No information was received from the implementing agency via an RTI request.</p> <p>In an RTI filed with the National Budget Department (NBD) on the 06th of July 2023 requesting information on the respective implementation agencies for budget proposals introduced in the 2023 budget, the NBD identified the Department of Cinnamon Industry as the implementation agency for this proposal. However, such a department could not be located online or during follow-up conversations with various government agencies via phone. An RTI request was thus filed with the Ministry of Plantations on the 15th of August 2023. However, no response was received from the ministry despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Plantations

Improving Facilities in Rural Schools	Closed	Undisclosed	Ministry of Education
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	
New Faculty of Medicine	Closed	Undisclosed	Ministry of Education
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, as per an extraordinary gazette available on the website of the Department of Government Printing, the establishment of the medical faculty at the Uva Wellassa University has been officially gazetted as the fifth faculty. This announcement was made in the extraordinary gazette no. 2324/12 issued on the 20th of March 2023. An official website for the faculty has also been launched, confirming the appointment of a Dean to the newly established faculty. Furthermore, in a speech delivered by Professor Jayantha Lal Rathnasekara, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, it was stated that the funds allocated in the budget will be utilised for foundational activities necessary to establish the Faculty of Medicine, including land acquisition.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	

<p>Promotion of Electronic Payment System</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) published on the official website of ICTA identifies 'Electronic Payment Platform' as a Ministry of Technology (MoT) and ICTA high priority project. It has also recorded the progress of the project as at 30th April 2023 as follows: "Draft concept note prepared by ICTA and submitted to the MoT. According to the concept note the entire solution contains three phases. A meeting will be held on the 15th of May 2023 with licensed commercial banks to discuss the possibility of providing basic online transaction facilities to government agencies."</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 09th of August 2023, which is within the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was sufficient to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lagging</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, a three-page document containing an action plan and a physical progress report as of the 01st of August was shared. As per the information shared in the progress report, several activities expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter or during the second quarter have not been completed as of the 01st of August. The response highlights that there has been no expenditure from January to June 2023 and that government funds will not be utilised for the development of the solution despite the allocation of Rs. 200 million in the 2023 budget speech.</p>	<p>Ministry of Technology</p>
<p>Reducing Post-Harvest Crop Losses and Improve Storage</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Restricted</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 15th of August 2023 and information was received on the 04th of September 2023, which is within the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was not sufficient to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, multiple action plans and revised action plans have been prepared for 2023 encompassing quarterly physical and financial targets for each activity. However, the activities for which we have received information do not total up to the budget allocation of Rs. 150 million, and no information has been provided regarding the total allocation of Rs. 150 million. The total allocation for the activities given as per the revised action plan amounts to Rs. 45.8 million.</p> <p>In addition, progress reports on physical and financial progress as at 2023.07.31 have been provided. Physical and financial progress have thus been given as at the end of July 2023 while physical and financial targets have been given as at the end of June (second quarter). This creates a discrepancy in the timeline because the progress reports are for a later date (end of July) than the specified targets (end of June for second quarter). This timing misalignment also presents a challenge in assessing the progress as of the end of the second quarter because the progress reports cover a period beyond the second quarter. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p>

Retaining the Youth in Agriculture Industry	<p style="text-align: center;">Restricted</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 15th of August 2023 and information was received on the 04th of September 2023, which is within the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was not sufficient to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, an action plan has been prepared for 2023 encompassing quarterly physical and financial targets for each activity. However, the activities for which we have received information do not total up to the budget allocation of Rs. 120 million, and no information has been provided regarding the total allocation of Rs. 120 million. Furthermore, no information regarding financial or physical progress has been provided to assess progress of the proposal against the targets. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Agriculture
Agency for External Trade and Investment	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Investment Promotion

	Closed	Undisclosed	
National Productivity Commission	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, a cabinet decision on the establishment of a National Productivity Commission was taken on 2023.08.14. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Hon. President to appoint an Experts Committee to determine the organisational structure of the proposed National Productivity Commission was approved by the cabinet. Moreover, as per a press release from the Presidential Secretariat, an inter-ministerial Working Group has been established to spearhead this initiative, comprised of members from various ministries, departments and organisations. The primary objective of this Working Group is to delve into global best practices for achieving enhanced productivity. In pursuit of this goal, the government has engaged with the Australian Productivity Commission. To foster the exchange of knowledge and insights, the Australian Productivity Commission organised a virtual session on the 27th of April 2023 for the Sri Lankan Working Group tasked with establishing the commission. This event was hosted by the Presidential Secretariat. No further information on action plans or progress reports were available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>The NBD identified the Ministry of Industries as the implementing agency for the proposal. Thus, Verite Research filed an RTI request on the 26th of July 2023 with the Ministry of Industries. However, in a response dated 10th August 2023 (within 14 days of the date on which the RTI was filed) from the Ministry of Industries, it was stated that the budget proposal 'National Productivity Commission' did not fall within the purview of the Ministry of Industries. The response further stated that the same had been communicated to the Presidential Secretariat in a letter dated 2023.03.28. The progress of the proposal could not be assessed as the implementing agency identified by the NBD stated that it was not the relevant implementing agency of this proposal.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online to assess progress. In addition, upon filing an RTI request with the implementing agency identified by the NBD, a response was received stating that it was not the relevant implementing agency of this proposal. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the inability to identify the responsible implementing agency.</p>	Ministry of Industries
Quality Assurance and Accreditation Board for the University Degrees	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 18th of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lagging</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the government is in the process of establishing the Council for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education. However, the establishment of this council has not been carried out yet. The amendments to the University Act are currently under review at the parliamentary stage. Due to this situation, it is stated that the initiative outlined in the budget proposal is falling behind schedule in terms of introducing the proposed council.</p>	Ministry of Education

Development of Inland Fisheries Industry	Open	Lagging	Ministry of Fisheries
	<p>Information was proactively available online as the Annual Action Plan for 2023 was available on the official website of the Ministry of Fisheries.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 04th of September 2023, which is outside the 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was relevant and useful to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p>As per the information available online to assess the progress of the proposal, the Annual Action Plan for 2023 was available on the official website of the Ministry of Fisheries.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the following information was received: Initial Action Plan 2023, Revised Action Plan, progress up to 30th June 2023, progress up to 31st July 2023 and reasons for delays in implementation. The information shared provided physical progress as at end of June 2023. However, there was no information on financial progress. Physical progress was 5% at the end of June 2023.</p> <p>The RTI response also provided the following as reasons for the delay in implementation: According to the Budget Circular No. 09/2022 – Authorisation for Incurring Expenditure and Management of Public Expenditure in the year 2023, strict instructions were given to settle the overdue bills pertaining to the year 2022 prior to entering into new commitments. The total value of bills in hand for 2022 was Rs. 175.68 million up to the end of April 2023. Therefore, work was delayed in getting necessary approvals. Additionally, the National Planning Department (NPD) approval for the project was informed only on the 2nd of March 2023 by the Ministry of Fisheries.</p>	

Increasing Liquid Milk Production	Uncooperative	Lagging	Department of Animal Production and Health
	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 04th of August 2023 and information was received on the 15th of September 2023, which is outside the 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the following information was received: Action Plan 2023, Physical Progress Report (up to 30th June 2023), request for additional funds due to financial limitation, Revised Action Plan and Project Proposal submitted under 'Increasing Liquid Milk Production'. The department intends to utilise the budget proposal's allocation and an additional Rs. 15 million from its 'breeding projects' funds for purchasing bulls. Moreover, it has submitted a request to the Ministry of Agriculture for an extra Rs. 50 million in funding with the aim of reaching a total of Rs. 165 million. Furthermore, it has sought an additional allocation of Rs. 105.5 million.</p> <p>In addition, the following activities have been stopped due to financial limitations – renovation of bull shed, pasture development for stud bulls, hiring of two semen distribution vehicles and training of field staff. While quarterly physical and financial targets have been set out in Action Plan 2023 and the department had started activities of the action plan at the correct time, progress has been hampered due to the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The tender process for the importation of stud bulls had to be restarted as only one bidder had quoted during the initial tender and had failed to submit the relevant reports as per the specifications. Tender documents are to be opened on the 11th of September 2023. 2. The tender procedure for the procurement of lab equipment had started at the correct time, but given financial limitations the total allocation had been transferred to import stud bulls. 3. The following activities have been stopped due to financial limitations – renovation of bull shed, pasture development for stud bulls, hiring of two semen distribution vehicles and training of field staff. 	

	Closed	Undisclosed	
International University for Climate Change	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, during a briefing on the progress of climate change and green growth held on the 31st of May at the Presidential Secretariat between President Ranil Wickremesinghe and officials of the Climate Change Secretariat, it was revealed that approximately 130 internationally renowned scientists in the field of climate change research are set to collaborate with President Ranil Wickremesinghe in the establishment of the Climate Change University slated for launch in Sri Lanka next year. It was also disclosed that successful negotiations had been conducted between Sri Lanka and the Korea Exim Bank, led by the External Resources Department following the bank's expression of interest in partnering with the university. No further details on physical or financial targets and progress were available online to assess progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Education
New Laboratory for Excise Department	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 16th of August 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Department of Excise

Establishing a Road Maintenance Fund

Restricted	Undisclosed
<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. However, a cabinet decision on the Establishment of the Road Maintenance Fund was taken on 2023.03.27. Accordingly, taking into account a proposal made by the Minister of Transport and Highways, cabinet granted its approval for the establishment of the proposed fund by an act of parliament.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 18th of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was not useful to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response letter from the implementing agency, the above mentioned proposal to establish a road maintenance fund had not been included in the action plan for 2023 but is expected to be included in the revised action plan at the end of the year. However, it is important to note that despite its omission from the action plan, the RTI response shared information on progress achieved with regards to the passing of the necessary bills in relation to the establishment of the road maintenance fund. Information on progress has only been given for the second quarter (from 01st April to 30th June), which is 75%, while progress for the first quarter has not been given.</p> <p>Given the contradictory nature of the information provided, the information provided was not useful to assess the cumulative progress during the first half of the year.</p>

Ministry of Transport and Highways

Sanitary Facilities for Prisoners	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023 and information was received on the 18th of August 2023, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days. The information provided was not sufficient to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lagging</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, the NBD has allocated Rs. 200 million for 'the enhancement of sanitary facilities of detainees in prisons' under the Budget Head 232 - Department of Prisons (232-1-01). In addition to this allocation, a further Rs. 100 million has been allocated from the budget speech 2023. Further, an action plan has been prepared for 2023 encompassing quarterly physical and financial targets for the proposal. As per the information received, the physical target set up to the end of June 2023 is 40%, with a financial target of Rs. 150 million for the same period.</p> <p>While information on progress was requested until end June for assessment against the targets set for the end of June, the progress reports provided by the implementing agency covered the period up to the 31st of July 2023. Given the discrepancy between the target time frame (June) and the actual progress report date (end of July), it was not feasible to evaluate the proposal's progress for June 2023. We have thus conducted our assessment on progress based on progress up to July and categorised the progress of this proposal accordingly. According to the information provided, progress of certain activities under the proposal have not been reported for the period up to July, and it is stated that preliminary activities such as obtaining approvals and preparing estimates were being undertaken prior to implementation. This suggests that minimal progress has been made in the actual implementation of the proposal.</p>	Department of Prisons
Post-Graduate Education Opportunities for Doctors	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 26th of July 2023; however, no response was received from the implementing agency despite multiple follow-ups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Education

Regulatory Proposals

Proposal	Openness	Progress	Agency
<p>Enhancing Access to Global Markets</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. Furthermore, as per a news article published by the Presidential Secretariat, President Ranil Wickremesinghe, while addressing the 56th anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the 08th of August 2023, revealed Sri Lanka's intention to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as well as plans to initiate negotiations for the establishment of free trade agreements with ASEAN member countries. In a news article published by the Presidential Secretariat, Secretary to the President Saman Ekanayake stated the government's intention was to resume the negotiations on free trade agreements and also drew attention to the budget proposal of establishing the International Trade Office (ITO) which is expected to deal with all international trade negotiations in the future.</p> <p>The Department of Fiscal Policy identified the Presidential Secretariat as the implementing agency for the proposal. Thus, Verite Research filed an RTI request on the 10th of August 2023 with the Presidential Secretariat. However, this request was transferred by the Presidential Secretariat to the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 06th September 2023 stating that the information requested was relevant to the Ministry. The request was then transferred back to the Presidential Secretariat from the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 12th September 2023 stating that the information requested was within the scope of the Presidential Secretariat. No further response has been received since.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies</p> <p>Presidential Secretariat</p>

Presidential Commission on Taxation	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>The Department of Fiscal Policy identified the Presidential Secretariat as the implementing agency for the proposal. Thus, Verite Research filed an RTI request on the 10th of August 2023 with the Presidential Secretariat. However, this request was transferred by the Presidential Secretariat to the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 06th September 2023 stating that the information requested was relevant to the Ministry. The request was then transferred to the Department of Fiscal Policy from the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 12th September 2023. No further response has been received since.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies Department of Fiscal Policy
Setting up of Data Protection Authority	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>The Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022 is available online. Furthermore, the Government's Extraordinary Gazette No. 2341/59 on July 21, 2023 which pertains to the implementation of Part V of the Personal Data Protection Act No. 09 of 2022 on the Establishment of Data Protection Authority is also available online.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 10th of August 2023, and information was received on the 25th of August 2023, which is within the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was relevant and useful to conduct a progress assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Implemented</p> <p>The Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022 was available online. The Act states that it provides for the establishment of the Data Protection Authority and includes provisions on the Constitution of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, on 19th March 2022, the Parliament approved the Personal Data Protection Bill, leading to its transformation into the Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022. Furthermore, the government commenced the implementation of Part V of the Personal Data Protection Act No. 09 of 2022 which pertains to the Establishment of Data Protection Authority, through the issuance of Government's Extraordinary Gazette No. 2341/59 on July 21, 2023. The proposal is thus implemented as the legislative enactment and regulatory notification (gazette) required have been published for the full scope of the proposal.</p> <p>Additionally, the RTI response noted that the appointment of the Data Protection Authority's Board of Directors was carried out under the authority of His Excellency the President, particularly in relation to the enforcement of Part V as stipulated in the aforementioned Gazette. As for the official establishment of the Authority, it is slated to take place after the 19th of September 2023.</p>	Ministry of Technology

New Financial Asset Management Companies Act	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal. As at the end of June, a Bill or an Act of this nature had not been debated in Parliament or published.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 10th of August 2023. The RTI request was rejected by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on grounds that the disclosure of such information could cause serious prejudice to the economy of Sri Lanka. Thus, information to assess the progress of the proposal was not received.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Appointment of Task Force to Monitor Budget Implementation	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>The Department of Fiscal Policy identified the Presidential Secretariat as the implementing agency for the proposal. Thus, Verite Research filed an RTI request on the 10th of August 2023 with the Presidential Secretariat. However, this request was transferred by the Presidential Secretariat to the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 06th September 2023 stating that the information requested was relevant to the Ministry of Finance. The request was then transferred to the Department of Fiscal Policy from the Ministry of Finance in a letter dated 12th September 2023. No further response has been received since.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies Department of Fiscal Policy
Establishment of the Micofinance and Credit Regulatory Authority (MCRA)	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 10th of August 2023. The RTI request was rejected by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on grounds that the disclosure of such information could cause serious prejudice to the economy of Sri Lanka. Thus, information to assess the progress of the proposal was not received.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Undisclosed</p> <p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request. Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information.</p>	Central Bank of Sri Lanka

New Labor Policies	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on the 10th of August 2023. The RTI request was rejected by the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment citing that a final decision on drafting a new Employment Act has not been taken yet.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Not implemented</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>As per the RTI response from the implementing agency, it was stated that a final decision on drafting a new Employment Act has not been taken yet, indicating that the proposal has not been implemented yet.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment</p>
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