

BUDGET PROMISES: BEYOND PARLIAMENT

2023 END YEAR ASSESSMENT

June 2024

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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

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

The 2023 end-year assessment tracked 25 expenditure proposals and 4 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.






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 end-year assessments, the requests were filed on the 31st of January 2024. The information for assessment was accepted from agencies for a period of 28 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 proposals' first six months of progress. The year-end assessment measures the government’s openness to 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.







Based on our experience in the past years, we have introduced a new category to the progress tracker that tracks progress as of the end of 2023. The new category, “unclaimed,” is used to categorise proposals for which agencies identified by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) as responsible for implementation deny responsibility.

Going forward from next year, for the mid-year assessment, progress will be categorised for expenditure proposals as follows:

- 
Unclaimed The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) denied its jurisdiction over the budget promise.
- 
Undisclosed The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) neither declined jurisdiction nor provided the information to determine the status of the promise or available information is insufficient/ 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 target ¹

For the end-year assessment of progress for end 2023 is categorised for expenditure proposals as follows:

	Unclaimed	The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) denied its jurisdiction over the budget promise.
	Undisclosed	The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) neither declined jurisdiction nor provided the information 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

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.



Fulfilled

Progress on the promise is over 80% of the target

Progress is categorised for regulatory proposals as follows:



Unclaimed

The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) denied its jurisdiction over the budget promise.



Undisclosed

The Implementing Agency (IA) identified by the Department of National Budget (DNB) or Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP) neither declined jurisdiction nor provided the information to determine the status of the promise 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.



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

Paragraph No & Proposal	Allocation (Mn)	Agency	Openness	Progress
47: Continuing the Provision of Increased Allowances Paid to Beneficiaries of Samurdhi, Elderly, Differently abled and Kidney Patients' Allowances	LKR 43,000 Mn	Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Unit) Department of Samurdhi Development (DSD) National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (NSPD)	Restricted Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal. An RTI request was filed on the 31st of January 2024 and information was received on the 25th of March 2024. The information letter was dated 14th March 2024, outside 28 days from the RTI request's filing. The response received contained information on financial targets/ actuals for the programme on allowances for 'Low-Income Disabled Persons' and 'Kidney patients'. However, information about the programme on allowance for elderly and samurdhi beneficiaries was not provided. Since the information provided was insufficient for a progress assessment, the proposal's openness was categorised as "restricted".	Undisclosed Allocation was to provide an allowance for four categories of beneficiaries - 1) Beneficiaries of Samurdhi, 2) Elderly, 3) Differently abled, and 4) Kidney Patients. We received information on progress from the NSPD for LKR 10,800 Mn (25% of the allocation). Of this, 79% was used to provide allowances for low-income disabled and kidney patients. Information is unavailable for 75% of the allocation and two categories of beneficiaries: elderly and Samurdhi beneficiaries. Since the information was insufficient to assess the progress, the proposal was categorised as "undisclosed".
61: Rehabilitation and Construction of Roads and Bridges Damaged by Floods	LKR 2,000 Mn	Road Development Authority (RDA)	Uncooperative Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal. RTI request was filed on the 31st of January 2024, and the first response was received on the 4th of March 2024. The information letter was dated February 21, 2024, which is within 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed. However, information about targets and progress of activities accounting for nearly 80% of the total allocation was not provided. On 18th March 2024 (outside 28 days), a second response containing financial targets and	Poor As per the RTI response from RDA, the total allocation was divided by province/division into five categories: Construction Division (LKR 900 Mn), Sabaragamuwa Province (LKR 398 Mn), Central Province (LKR 450 Mn), Uva Province (LKR 84 Mn) and Southern Province (LKR 168 Mn). While the information on progress had been given for certain sub-activities under the four provinces, information to assess progress was not provided for the allocation under the construction division. Based on the information provided, out of the LKR 1,100 Mn allocated for the four provinces only 86.78 Mn has been spent.

			<p>performance was received for LKR 1,100 Mn out of the LKR 2,000 Mn budget allocation.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p>Based on the available data and assuming the construction division has not spent anything out of the LKR 900 Mn allocation, the overall financial progress is thus 4%.</p> <p>Progress is categorised as "poor" since it is below 33%.</p>
49: Improving Child Nutrition: Strengthen the existing nutrition supplemental programmes	LKR 500 Mn	Ministry of Health (MOH)	Uncooperative	Broken
			<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on March 13th, 2024, which is outside the 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 28 days.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p>As per the RTI response, the Nutrition Division of the MOH submitted to the Department of National Budget (DNB) a proposal on March 15, 2023, seeking funding for a 'Foster Scheme for Children under 5 years identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in six districts' to provide vouchers for selected families to buy recommended food items from registered suppliers. However, MOH had not received the funds requested from the DNB for implementing the proposal.</p> <p>Since the proposal was not implemented during the budget year, it is classified as "broken".</p>
54: Enhancing Flood Protection Systems: Implementation of irrigation systems based on Ma Oya, Aththana galu Oya and Bentara Ganga	LKR 500 Mn	Ministry of Irrigation (MOI)	Uncooperative	Poor
			<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on March 12th, 2024, which is outside the 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 28 days.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days),</p>	<p>As per the RTI response, while MOI requested an imprest of LKR 500 Mn to finance the project (LKR 500 Mn is the total allocation), it only received LKR 83.69 Mn from the Treasury. MOI has spent all funds received, achieving financial progress of 17% as of December 2023.</p> <p>According to the information given, 40% of the targeted 100% physical progress had been achieved as of December 2023.</p> <p>The overall progress made during the budget year was 28%.</p>

			the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".	Progress is categorised as "poor" since it is below 33%.
6: New Economic Zone program for attracting foreign investments: set up New Economic Zones in the Western Province, Northwestern Province, Hambantota, and Trincomalee.	LKR 300 Mn	Ministry of Investment Promotion (MOIP)	Responsive	Partial
			<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on 31st of January 2024 and information was received on 27th of February 2024, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed, but within 21 days.</p> <p>Since information to assess progress was provided in a timely manner, the proposals' openness was categorised as "responsive".</p>	<p>MOIP has provided information on physical and financial targets and progress for two infrastructure projects in existing zones (1) Wagawatta Industrial Zone in the Western Province and (2) Bingiriya EPZ in the Northwestern Province.</p> <p>Based on the information received, the total estimated cost of for the two infrastructure projects in these two zones was LKR 3,896 Mn. Of this, LKR 300 Mn was spent on the two projects as follows: (1) the access road in the Bingiriya EPZ (LKR 68.14 Mn), and (2) the power supply to the Wagawatta Industrial Zone (LKR 231.86 Mn).</p> <p>As of December 2023, the aforementioned two infrastructure projects have achieved a physical progress of 74% and 100% financial progress by spending the total allocation of LKR 300 Mn.</p> <p>However, there is no mention of the other two proposed zones in Trincomalee and Hambanthota.</p> <p>Based on the information received, the proposal's progress was categorised as "partial".</p>
48:	LKR 250 Mn		Restricted	Undisclosed

<p>Strengthening Elderly / Differently abled / Widows as Household Entrepreneurs</p>		<p>Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Unit)</p> <p>Department of Samurdhi Development</p> <p>National Secretariat for Elders</p> <p>National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (NSPD)</p>	<p>The information available online was insufficient to assess progress.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, the implementing agency did not respond to the RTI request.</p> <p>Since the information provided online was insufficient for a progress assessment, the proposal's openness was categorised as "restricted".</p>	<p>Sufficient information was not proactively available online to assess the proposal's progress, nor was any information received from the implementing agency in response to the RTI request.</p> <p>Since the progress could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information, the proposal's progress was classified as "undisclosed".</p>
<p>51: Establishing 10 Agro-entrepreneurship Villages</p>	<p>Original Allocation- LKR 250 Mn</p> <p>Revised Allocation- LKR 190 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Irrigation (MOI)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Uncooperative</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on March 12th, 2024, which is outside 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 28 days.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial</p> <p>Information received indicates the original allocation being revised from LKR 250 Mn to LKR 190 Mn. According to the progress report and action plan, 11 agro-entrepreneurship villages are expected to be established. The Ministry filed an imprest request for LKR 166.96 Mn and received LKR 91.105 Mn, which it has fully utilised.</p> <p>According to the information available, physical progress achieved is 88% and financial progress is 48% (LKR 91.105 Mn/ LKR 190 Mn).</p> <p>Since the overall progress of the proposal is 68%, the proposal's progress was categorised as "substantial".</p>
<p>65:</p>	<p>LKR 250 Mn</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Poor</p>

<p>Loan Scheme to Encourage Young Women Entrepreneurs</p>		<p>Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 12th, 2024, which is within 14 days of the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant for conducting a financial progress assessment and received in a timely manner; hence, the proposal's openness was categorised as “responsive”.</p>	<p>The Implementing Agency provided the action plan for 2023 and the actual financial progress as of January 19, 2024, but did not provide information on the physical progress.</p> <p>According to the information received, the Treasury released LKR 50 Mn on December 12, 2023. The Ministry disbursed LKR 5 Mn, targeting 20 beneficiaries. Another LKR 25.1 Mn is planned for release, targeting 103 beneficiaries.</p> <p>Since only LKR 5 Mn has been spent out of the LKR 250 Mn allocated during the budget year, the financial progress is at 2%.</p> <p>Progress is categorised as “poor” since it is below 33%.</p>
<p>10: Investment-Friendly Environment – introduce necessary reforms to reduce costs, procedures, and time and improve transparency, enabling the creation of a healthy business environment.</p>	<p>LKR 200 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Investment Promotion (MOIP)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>Information available online was not sufficient to assess progress.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 27th, 2024, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed but within 21 days.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, hence, proposal’s openness was categorised as “responsive”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Partial</p> <p>Information published by the Ministry online states that stakeholders participated in workshops on 29.08.2023 and 30.08.2023 to prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) for creating an investment-friendly environment. The RTI response revealed that LKR 114.93 Mn out of the targeted LKR 200 Mn was spent.</p> <p>As per the action plans and progress reports provided by MOIP in response to the RTI, 72% of the physical progress was achieved, and 57% of the financial progress was achieved.</p> <p>Hence, the proposal’s progress is categorised as “partial” with an overall progress of 65%.</p>
<p>16:</p>	<p>LKR 200 Mn</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Partial</p>

<p>New Department for Cinnamon Industry</p>		<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries</p> <p>Department of Cinnamon Development (DCD)</p>	<p>The information available online was insufficient to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 20th, 2024, which is within 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, hence proposal's openness was categorised as "responsive".</p>	<p>As per the cabinet decisions published online, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the establishment of the DCD on August 14, 2023. According to the 'President's Media Division', the DCD Director, Mr. Janaka Lindara, attended 'the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Spice Council' on November 09, 2023, along with the President of Sri Lanka and the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries.</p> <p>Hence, the physical progress of the proposal is assessed based on the qualitative information received from the DCD, which included the following 10 activities: (1) Cabinet approval on August 14, 2023, for the establishment of the DCD from September 1, 2023, (Cabinet paper no. 23/1501/601/050). (2) Mr. L.M.J.K. Lindara, Director (Development) of the Department of Export Agriculture (DEA), was appointed as the Acting Director General of the DCD. However, no other officer was appointed to the department except the DG. (3) A new organizational structure was submitted to and approved by the Management Services Department. (4) Approval was granted to recruit 142 posts in 2023, including staff currently employed at the Cinnamon Research and Training Centre, Palolpitiya. However, no officer has been properly recruited in 2023. (5) A Cabinet paper has been drafted outlining the proposed transition of the National Cinnamon Research and Training Center, along with all associated physical assets currently under the purview of the DEA, to be transferred to the DCD. (6) A privately owned building was procured on a rental basis for DCD's Head Office. (7) bids for office equipment procurement have been prepared and submitted. (8) A concept paper for the DCD Act was sent to the Legal Draftsman's Department in August 2023. (9) Preparation of a ten-year roadmap for the cinnamon industry is currently underway. (10) Two workshops related to</p>
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				<p>this initiative have already been conducted, along with one validation workshop. In accordance with the Cabinet approval, the Cinnamon Gate project has been entrusted to the DCD, and the relevant land has been transferred to contractors to commence construction work.</p> <p>Based on the information received via RTI and the press releases from the President's Media Division (PMD), it is corroborated that the DCD is established. Of the 10 activities detailed earlier, activities 4, 7, 8, and 9 are either underway or remain unimplemented. Consequently, 6 activities have been completed, indicating a 60% physical progress.</p> <p>Information was not available to assess the financial progress of the proposal.</p> <p>Since the overall progress was 60%, the proposal's progress was categorised as "partial".</p>
20: Improving Facilities in Rural Schools: construction of sanitary facilities in 139 provincial schools, 23 national schools, and rural schools with minimal facilities.	LKR 200 Mn	Ministry of Education (MOE)	Closed	Undisclosed
			<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, the implementing agency did not respond to the RTI request.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as "closed".</p>	<p>No information was proactively available online or received from the implementing agency via an RTI request.</p> <p>Thus, the progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information hence proposal's progress was categorised as "undisclosed".</p>
25:	LKR 200 Mn		Uncooperative	Fulfilled

New Faculty of Medicine		<p>Ministry of Education (MOE)</p> <p>Higher Education Division</p>	<p>The information available online on multiple official web platforms was sufficient to assess the proposal's progress.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on March 20th, 2024, 28 days after that date.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative."</p>	<p>As per the Extraordinary Gazette no. 2324/12, issued on March 20, 2023, and published online, the medical faculty has been officially gazetted as the fifth faculty of Uva Wellassa University. An official website for the faculty has also been launched, confirming the appointment of a Dean to the newly established faculty.</p> <p>Further, during the Business of the House at Parliament, with the presentation of papers, an Order was made on the 23rd of June 2023 by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of Departments of the Faculty of Medicine of the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. (Parliamentary Debates. (2023). Papers presented. Hansard 304, Vol 8, page 6).</p> <p>Additionally, the University Admission Guidebook 2022/2023, published in May 2023 and available online, included Uva Wellassa University in its list of student intake for 'Medicine' under the 'Biological Science Stream'.</p> <p>MOE, in response to the RTI, shared Extraordinary Gazette No. 2324/12 of 20 March 2023, which states the official establishment of the Medical Faculty of Uva Wellassa University as its fifth Faculty.</p> <p>Based on the above qualitative information, the progress of the promise has been categorised as 'fulfilled'.</p>
29:	LKR 200 Mn		Responsive	Poor

<p>Promotion of Electronic Payment System – to implement the policy mandating all government payments to be done electronically with effect from 01.03.2024 including cash grants as well as payments for obtaining services.</p>		<p>Ministry of Technology (MOT)</p>	<p>The information available online was insufficient to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 21st, 2024, which is outside 14 days but within 21 days, from the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>Since the information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, the proposal’s openness was categorised as “responsive”.</p>	<p>RTI response from MOT, outlined 11 activities completed as of December 31, 2023. Accordingly, (1) a working group has been established for the pilot program, (2) 14 organizations selected (3) LankaPay developed the system providing the government backend access, (4) 14 organizations briefed on the system and their responsibilities, (5) trained relevant officers, (6) shared documented guidelines with 14 organizations, (7) created user logins for the 14 organizations, (8) onboarded 5 banks (9) agreement has been shared (the agreements need to be refined due to changes by LankaPay and CBSL in the system), (10) the system is now live for the 14 organizations, and (11) according to CBSL, other banks will be onboarded by March 2024.</p> <p>The information does not provide an action plan or progress report for the entire budget proposal but only for the pilot program.</p> <p>Based on the information available, which outlines the activities completed, the progress of the proposal’s progress is categorised as “poor”.</p>
<p>53: Reducing Post-Harvest Crop Losses and Improve Storage, to develop the required knowledge, technology, and necessary infrastructure facilities</p>	<p>Original Allocation- LKR 150 Mn Revised Allocation- LKR 148 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p> <p>Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 15th, 2024, which is within 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>Since the information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, the proposal’s progress was categorised as “responsive”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial</p> <p>According to the information received, 88.5% physical progress has been achieved against the targeted 100%.</p> <p>According to the Progress Report 2023, the original allocation was revised to LKR 147.94 Mn. LKR 103.71 Mn has been spent, achieving 70.11% financial progress.</p> <p>Proposals progress was categorised as “substantial” with an overall progress of 79.30%.</p>
<p>64:</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fulfilled</p>

<p>Retaining the Youth in Agriculture Industry – select 240 youth who are currently unemployed representing each district of the island and empower them as agriculture entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>Original Allocation- LKR 120 Mn Revised Allocation- LKR 119 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)</p>	<p>Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 15th, 2024, which is within 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>Since the information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, the proposal’s progress was categorised as “responsive”.</p>	<p>MOA has provided information on physical and financial targets and progress as of December 2023.</p> <p>As per the information given, a physical progress of 86.42% has been achieved against the targeted 100%.</p> <p>Further, LKR 101.66 Mn has been spent out of the targeted LKR 118.52 Mn, achieving 86% financial progress.</p> <p>Proposals progress was categorised as “fulfilled” with an overall progress of 86%.</p>
<p>5: Agency for External Trade and Investment – setting up a new agency in place of the Board of Investment, Export Development Board, Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Cooperation, National Development Authority, etc.</p>	<p>LKR 100 Mn</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>Three RTI requests were filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, no response was received from the Department of National Budget (DNB) and Department of Fiscal Policy (DFP)-identified implementing agencies.</p> <p>Since the information was unavailable to assess progress, the proposal’s openness was categorised as “closed”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unclaimed</p> <p>The DFP identified the Presidential Secretariat (PS) and the Ministry of Trade as the implementing agencies for this proposal in a letter dated 10.01.2024 and DNB identified the MOIP as the implementing agency in a letter dated 17.07.2023. RTI requests were submitted to all three agencies.</p> <p>The MOIP clarified that it was not within their jurisdiction. On February 14, 2024, the Ministry of Trade redirected the request to the PS, stating it was not under their purview. The PS transferred the request to the MOF the same day. On March 13, 2024, the DFP reaffirmed that the original agencies were responsible.</p> <p>The proposal is categorised as “unclaimed” as each agency identified by DFP and DNB denies jurisdiction.</p>
<p>7:</p>	<p>LKR 100 Mn</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unclaimed</p>

<p>National Productivity Commission- to improve productivity in every sector of the economy.</p>			<p>The information available online on multiple official web platforms was insufficient to assess the proposal's progress. .</p> <p>Two RTI requests were filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, the agencies identified as the implementing agency by DNB and DFP did not respond.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as "closed".</p>	<p>A cabinet decision on establishing a National Productivity Commission was made on August 14, 2023. The proposal by the Hon. President to appoint an expert committee to determine the commission's organisational structure was approved. According to a press release from the Presidential Secretariat, an inter-ministerial Working Group has been established, including members from various ministries, departments, and organisations, to explore global best practices for enhanced productivity. The government has engaged with the Australian Productivity Commission, which organized a virtual session for the Sri Lankan Working Group on April 27, 2023, hosted by the Presidential Secretariat.</p> <p>The DFP identified the Presidential Secretariat and the Ministry of Trade as implementing agencies for the proposal on 10.01.2024. RTI requests were filed with both agencies, but the Ministry of Trade transferred the request to the Presidential Secretariat on February 14, 2024, and the Presidential Secretariat transferred the RTI request to the MOF on the same day, stating it was not under their purview. On March 13, 2024, the Department of Fiscal Policy reiterated that the initially mentioned agencies were responsible.</p> <p>The proposal is categorised as "unclaimed" as each agency identified by DFP and DNB denies jurisdiction.</p>
<p>23: Quality Assurance and Accreditation Board for the University Degrees- To take necessary steps to implement this</p>	<p>LKR 100 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Education (MOE) Higher Education Division Non-state Higher Education Division</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Uncooperative</p> <p>Information available online was not sufficient to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on the 11th of March</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Poor</p> <p>As per the cabinet decisions on March 27, 2023, the Cabinet approved the proposal to establish the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Commission (QAAC) on April 2, 2023. This included permission to publish the Higher Education (Quality Assurance</p>

<p>proposal with the necessary legal provisions.</p>			<p>2024, which is outside 21 days but within 28 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p>Accreditation) Bill in the Government Gazette and introduce it to Parliament. However, the Bill was not presented to Parliament as planned. After reviewing amendments suggested by the Attorney General (AG) and feedback from stakeholders, it was decided the Bill needed further revisions. The Cabinet agreed to the Education Minister's suggestion for the Legal Draftsman to create a new version with these changes.</p> <p>According to the RTI response from the MOE, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), appointed on August 31, 2022, submitted amendments to the draft Bill in a report on February 10, 2023. Based on a Cabinet decision on April 4, 2023, approval was granted to incorporate the amendments into the Bill, except for sections 4 to 7. Subsequently, on April 21, 2023, the Legal Draftsman Department was instructed to include the cabinet-approved amendments and the final Bill was forwarded to the AG on June 22, 2023, for clearance. To date, the AG has not provided the certificate of constitutionality (as per the letter dated March 6, 2024).</p> <p>MOE in their response stated that, this proposal will now be affected by the Budget Speech 2024 proposal to establish a National Higher Education Council (NHEC), as quality assurance must now fall under the jurisdiction of the NHEC. Furthermore, the financial and physical performance targets to establish a Quality Assurance Board will only be set once the Bill is tabled in Parliament.</p> <p>Since the Bill has not yet been published and its establishment has been postponed to the 2024 budget year, it is categorized as "poor".</p>
33: -	LKR 100 Mn	Ministry of Fisheries	Open	Substantial

<p>Development of Inland Fisheries Industry – to increase the capacity of existing fish breeding centres</p>			<p>Information was proactively available online, as the Annual Action Plan for 2023 and the Progress Report as of 31.12.2023 were available on the Ministry of Fisheries' official website.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 19th, 2024, which is within 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed.</p> <p>Since sufficient information to assess progress was provided proactively online, the proposal was categorised as “open”.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Fisheries has provided information on actual physical and financial progress as of December 2023. As per the information given, as of December 2023 a physical progress of 60% has been achieved against the targeted 100%.</p> <p>Further, LKR 81.53 Mn has been spent out of the targeted LKR 100 Mn. The financial progress is at 81.53%, which indicates that the project's spending is slightly below the planned budget as of December 2023.</p> <p>The proposal's progress was categorised as “substantial”, with the overall progress of 70.54%.</p>
55:	LKR 100 Mn		Uncooperative	Fulfilled

<p>Increasing Liquid Milk Production- develop the Kundasale Artificial Insemination Center and adopt new technologies in order to increase liquid milk production.</p>		<p>Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH)</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on April 1st, 2024. The information letter was dated March 21st, 2024, which is outside 28 days from the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided detailed changes to the primary objective of the budget promise, financial targets/actuals, and the physical progress achieved. Thus, the information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p>As per the RTI response from DAPH, the primary objective was to import 17 bulls, but this plan was abandoned as the bidder's documents did not meet specifications. Consequently, the department decided to procure equipment and infrastructure for maintaining high-quality deep-frozen semen production at CAIS-Kundasale.</p> <p>The mid-year assessment indicated that DAPH requested additional funds from the ministry due to insufficient budget allocations. Financial constraints halted the renovation of the bull shed, pasture development for stud bulls, acquisition of 02 semen distribution vehicles, and training of field staff as of June 2023.</p> <p>The RTI response revealed that out of LKR 100 Mn allocated, LKR 80.1 Mn has been spent, achieving financial progress of 80.1% on various activities, including the acquisition of an autoclave, a filling sealing printing machine, a spectrophotometer, an 800L semen storage tank, exercise area development, 02 bush cutters, and 25 bull carpets.</p> <p>Furthermore, a physical progress of 80% has been achieved.</p> <p>Overall progress is thus 80%.</p> <p>Proposals progress was categorised as "fulfilled" with an overall progress of 86%.</p>
<p>56:</p>	<p>LKR 100 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Closed</p>	<p>Undisclosed</p>

<p>International University for Climate Change (IUCC)- establish an IUCC for the purpose of furthering knowledge, sharing experience, education, training, building capacities, development of programs in the areas of climate change mitigation.</p>			<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>The RTI request was submitted to the MOE after the DNB and the DFP identified it as the implementing agency. However, MOE informed us that this is not under their purview, and it is under the Ministry of Environment in a letter dated 19th March 2024 (which was received on 25th March 2024) which is outside 28 days.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as "closed".</p>	<p>According to the 'Government Official News Portal,' President Ranil Wickremesinghe officially launched the ICCU on December 3, 2023. The article mentioned that 600 acres of land overlooking the Kothmale Reservoir have been allocated for the IUCC.</p> <p>An RTI request was submitted to the MOE after the DNB and the DFP identified it as the implementing agency. However, in a letter dated March 19, 2024 (received on March 25, 2024), the MOE informed us that this falls under the Ministry of Environment, which is outside the 28-day period.</p> <p>The progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information hence proposal's progress was categorised as "undisclosed".</p>
<p>59: New Laboratory for Excise Department- to carry out tests relating to alcohol products as a mechanism to examine the quality of alcohol products and to setup standards.</p>	<p>LKR 100 Mn</p>	<p>Department of Excise (DE)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Uncooperative</p> <p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on March 12th, 2024, which is outside 21 days from the date the RTI request was filed, but within 28 days. The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information for the progress assessment was obtained with much effort (outside 21 days), the proposal's openness was categorised as "uncooperative".</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Partial</p> <p>The DE has provided information on actual physical and financial progress as of December 2023.</p> <p>According to the information provided, the proposal includes 10 tasks, and the progress report outlines the physical progress of these tasks. Based on this information, a physical progress of 75% has been achieved as of December 2023.</p> <p>Furthermore, only LKR 1.48 Mn out of the total allocation of LKR 100 Mn has been utilized for 'Task 8: Procurement of lab instruments, glass items, furniture, and other requirements,' indicating a financial progress of 1.48%.</p> <p>Overall progress was thus 38.24%.</p>

				Since the overall progress was 38.24%, the proposal's progress was categorised as "partial".
60: Establishing a Road Maintenance Fund- to provide for all types of road maintenance annually.	LKR 100 Mn	Ministry of Transport and Highways (MOTH) Road Development Authority (RDA)	Responsive	Fulfilled
			<p>Sufficient information was not proactively available online to assess the proposal's progress,</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on the February 22nd, 2024, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed, but within 21 days. The information provided contained a revised action plan for the proposal.</p> <p>Since the information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, the proposal's progress was categorised as "responsive".</p>	<p>A cabinet decision on the 'Establishment of the Road Maintenance Fund' was taken on March 27, 2023. Based on a proposal by the Minister of MOTH, the cabinet approved the establishment of the fund by an act of parliament.</p> <p>The RDA provided a revised action plan with quarterly physical targets and actual progress as of December 2023. A target of 75% physical progress was set and achieved by December 2023, resulting in a 100% physical progress rate. Additionally, on August 28, 2023, the RDA submitted an amended draft for the road maintenance levy on revenue licenses to the DFP for further action.</p> <p>However, the revised action plan shows that there were no financial targets or expenditures in 2023, making financial progress not applicable for the year.</p> <p>Thus, overall progress is 100%.</p> <p>Since the overall progress of the proposal is 100%, the proposal's progress was categorised as "fulfilled".</p> <p>Notes: The revised action plan does not specify when the remaining 25% of physical progress will be completed or how the LKR 100 Mn will be utilized. Moreover, the Budget Speech 2023 does not recognize this as a multi-year project/ initiative.</p>
68:			Responsive	Poor

<p>Sanitary Facilities for Prisoners</p>	<p>Allocation from Budget Speech- LKR 100 Mn</p> <p>Allocation from the Budget Estimates 2023- LKR 200 Mn</p> <p>Total Allocation for the purpose- LKR 300 Mn</p>	<p>Department of Prisons (DP)</p>	<p>No information was available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 21st, 2024, which is outside the 14 days from the date the RTI request was filed, but within 21 days.</p> <p>The information provided was relevant to conduct a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since the information provided was relevant to conducting a progress assessment and received in a timely manner, the proposal's progress was categorised as "responsive".</p>	<p>As per the RTI response from DP, the DNB allocated LKR 200 Mn under 'Budget Head 232-1-01' for enhancing sanitary facilities for detainees, with an additional LKR 100 Mn from the 2023 budget speech.</p> <p>The Progress Report from DP covers the financial and physical progress of activities worth LKR 94.5 Mn (the amount disbursed). Of this, LKR 86.7 Mn has been spent. As of December 2023, the financial progress is 29% (LKR 86.7 Mn out of LKR 300 Mn).</p> <p>The information received was not sufficient to assess the physical progress of the entire budget proposal.</p> <p>Based on the provided information, the overall progress of the proposal is 29%.</p> <p>Progress is categorised as poor since it is below 33%.</p>
<p>22: Post-Graduate Education Opportunities for Doctors- establish postgraduate study programs for doctors in Peradeniya, Ruhuna and Jaffna universities.</p>	<p>LKR 60 Mn</p>	<p>Ministry of Education (MOE) Higher Education Division</p>	<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 January 31st, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, the MOE did not respond to the RTI request.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as "closed".</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.</p> <p>The progress of the proposal could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information hence proposal's progress was categorised as "undisclosed".</p>

Regulatory Proposals

Paragraph No & Proposal	Agency	Openness	Progress
<p>30: Setting up of Data Protection Authority</p>	<p>Ministry of Technology (MOT)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Open</p> <p>Information relevant to assess the progress of the proposal was proactively available online.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 21st, 2024, 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>Since sufficient information to assess progress was provided proactively online, the proposal was categorised as “open”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Implemented</p> <p>The Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022 and the Government's Extraordinary Gazette No. 2341/59 (dated July 21, 2023), which pertains to the implementation of Part V of the Act on the establishment of the Data Protection Authority, are available online. The Act 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 MOT on February 21, 2024, a Board of Directors was appointed for the Data Protection Authority on August 11, 2023, marking the establishment of its governing body. An Acting Director General, tasked with overseeing the Authority's operations, was appointed on November 9, 2023. Furthermore, work has commenced on regulatory matters in accordance with the Data Protection Act.</p> <p>Since the Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022 and Government's Extraordinary Gazette No. 2341/59 are available online, the proposal's progress was categorised as “implemented”.</p>
<p>43: New Financial Asset Management Companies Act</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Closed</p> <p>Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>Three RTI requests were filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, no response was received from DNB and DFP identified implementing agency.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as “closed”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unclaimed</p> <p>The DNB identified the CBSL as the implementing agency for this proposal in a letter dated July 27, 2023. An RTI request was submitted to the CBSL; however, on February 28, 2024, the CBSL transferred the request back to the MOF, stating it is not the responsible agency. The MOF then redirected the request to the DFP on March 5, 2024.</p> <p>The proposal is categorised as “unclaimed” as the agency identified by DFP and DNB denies jurisdiction.</p>

<p>44: Establishment of the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority (MCRA)</p>	<p>Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL)</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>
		<p>Information relevant to assess the progress of the proposal was proactively available online.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31st, 2024, and information was received on February 15th, 2024, which is within 14 days of the date the RTI request was filed. The information provided was relevant and useful to conduct a progress assessment.</p> <p>Since sufficient information to assess progress was provided proactively online, the proposal was categorised as “open”.</p>	<p>The Microfinance Credit Regulatory Authority Bill, published in a Gazette on October 30th, 2023, and presented to Parliament on January 09th, 2024 (Bill No. 234) by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, has not yet been passed.</p> <p>Seven individuals and Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) petitioned the Supreme Court (SC SD 08/2024, 09/2024, 11/2024, 14/2024, 15/2024, 16/2024 and 17/2024), arguing that the Bill fails to effectively regulate the exploitative practices of microfinance lenders and does not meet standards of reasonableness, proportionality, natural justice, separation of powers, and legal certainty, thus violating Article 83 in conjunction with Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution.</p> <p>On February 20th, 2024, the Hon. Speaker announced that the Supreme Court found the Bill inconsistent with the Constitution. To address these inconsistencies, some sections require a special majority in Parliament, while others necessitate both a special majority and approval by the people through a referendum. The Court indicated that amending the Bill as per its recommendations could resolve these issues.</p> <p>Subsequently, pursuant to multistakeholder consultations convened by Parliament’s Committee on Public Finance, the MOF decided to withdraw the Bill for redrafting due to its inability to effectively address its original objectives.</p> <p>Since the Microfinance Credit Regulatory Authority Bill is published online yet couldn’t proceed due to constitutionality concerns, the proposal’s progress was categorised as “partially implemented”.</p>
<p>11:</p>		<p>Closed</p>	<p>Undisclosed</p>

New Labor Policies	Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment	<p>Sufficient information was not available online to assess the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>An RTI request was filed on January 31, 2024; however, despite multiple follow-ups, the implementing agency did not respond to the RTI request.</p> <p>Since no information was provided on progress, the proposal's openness was categorised as "closed".</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment published a Call for Inputs on Labour Law Reforms in Sri Lanka on May 16th, 2023, inviting all stakeholders and interested parties to submit their input on these reforms. The Ministry had also held public sessions for the aforementioned purpose.</p> <p>Sufficient information was not proactively available online to assess the proposal's progress, nor was any information received from the implementing agency in response to the RTI request.</p> <p>The proposal's progress could not be assessed due to the unavailability of information hence proposal's progress was categorised as "undisclosed".</p>
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