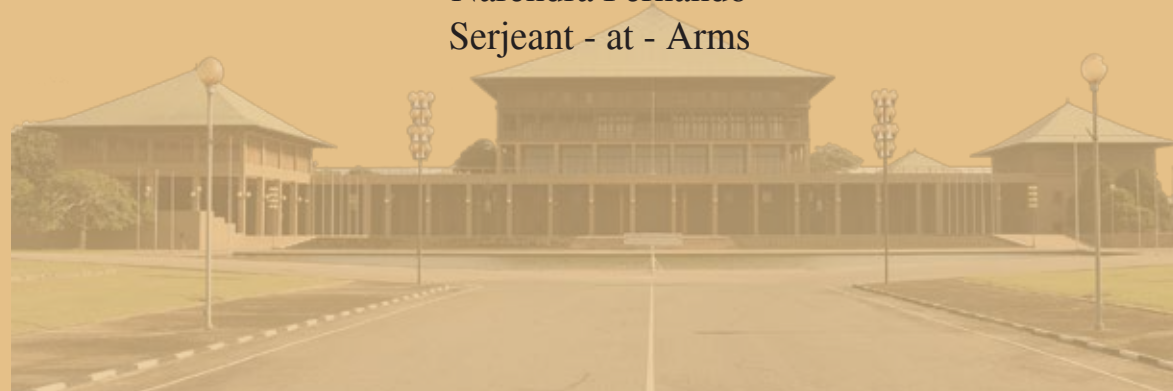


PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

**OFFICE OF THE SERJEANT - AT -ARMS
IN SRI LANKA
IT'S HISTORY AND MISSION,
OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS**

Prepared by
Narendra Fernando
Serjeant - at - Arms



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Kushan Sampath Jayaratne
Deputy Serjeant - at - Arms



Narendra Fernando
Serjeant - at - Arms
(August 2018 - to date)



Achintha Srimal Cooray
Assistant Serjeant - at - Arms

PAST SERJEANTS - AT - ARMS



M. Ismail MBE
First Serjeant - at - Arms
(1947 - 1961)



J. R. De Silva
(1961 - 1970)



Ronnie Abeyasinghe
(1970 - 1996)



Wijaya Palliyaguruge
(1996 - 2006)



Anil Parakrama Samarasekera
(2006 - 2018)

PAST DEPUTY SERJEANTS - AT - ARMS



H. A. B. Wanasinghe
(1982 - 1989)



V. B. Karunaratne
(1991 - 1997)

Office of the Serjeant-at-Arms in Sri Lanka, it's History and Mission, Objectives and Functions

Background

- The Serjeant-at-Arms is an Office having its origin in early English Parliamentary history.
- Serjeants-at-Arms were originally Members' of a Kings' Bodyguards.
- King Edward I of England formed a Bodyguard of 20 Serjeants-at-Arms in 1279 A.D.
- It is reported that King Philip Augustus of France had his bodyguards of Serjeants-at-Arms 80 years before.
- A Serjeant-at-Arms was first appointed by the King Richard II of England to attend on the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1415 A.D., and Nicholas Moudit was appointed the first Serjeant - at- Arms of the British Parliament.
- Serjeants-at-Arms were known as "Serjeant"; "Mace Bearer"; "Gentleman-Usher", *etc*, in the past.
- Initially "Serjeants" played the role of a body guard to the King.
- As the British Parliament System evolved, the practice of the King presiding over the House of Representatives underwent a change and instead the Speaker began presiding in the capacity of King's Representative.
- As a mark of respect to the Speaker and to symbolize the authority of the King, the Serjeant-at-Arms, who was till then the personal bodyguard of the King, was entrusted with the duty of being the Custodian of the "Mace".
- Serjeant-at-Arms as bearer of the Mace became identified with protecting the privileges of the House. The Speaker was considered the Guardian and the Serjeant-at-Arms, the Enforcer.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is the legal and recognized Officer of the House to execute its orders.

Office of the Serjeant - at - Arms in Sri Lanka, it's History

- The need to provide a Mace and to appoint a Serjeant - at - Arms was considered for the first time by the Parliament of then Ceylon on the 20th July, 1931.
- A Committee comprising Messers Sir Francis Molamure, the then Speaker, Susantha de Fonseka; Major J.W. Oldfield, MBE; Dr. V.R. Shockman; D.D. Athulathmudali and G.N. Farquahr, the then Secretary to the State Council considered these issues.
- In March 1933, the State Council considered the Powers and Functions of the Serjeant-at-Arms, his staff and certain other matters including the procedure that should be followed when admitting Visitors to the Galleries.
- Under Article 65(3) of the Constitution, the Serjeant - at - Arms is appointed by the Secretary General of Parliament with the approval of the Hon. Speaker. (Please see Annexure "A")
- The first Serjeant-at-Arms was appointed in 1947 and the Mace was presented by the House of Commons in 1949. (Please see Annexure "B") Mr. M. Ismail, MBE was the first Serjeant-at-Arms and held the post from 1947-1961. Thereafter, the following succeeded in this position:-

Mr. J.R. De Silva - 1961 to 1970

Mr. Ronnie Abeysinghe - 1970 to 1996

Mr. Wijaya Palliyaguruge - 1996 to 2006

Mr. Anil Parakrama Samarasekera - 2006 to August 2018

Mr. Narendra Fernando - August 2018 to date

- Serjeant-at-Arms is the Custodian of the "Mace" (Please see Annexure "C"), which symbolises the authority of Parliament and inside the House he is the officer, who carries out the Orders given by the Chair. Please see Annexure "I" re. Mace of the Upper House (The Senate).
- Serjeant-at-Arms is empowered to execute the Orders given by the Chair to suspend a Member of Parliament temporarily or to remove the relevant member from the Chamber for disobeying or disregarding the Authority of the Chair or for deliberately interrupting the Proceedings of Parliament repeatedly or violating Parliamentary Standing Orders. Standing Orders 77 to 80 become effective in such instances. (Please see Annexure "D")
- Serjeant-at-Arms is empowered to accompany any witness, accused or any other person to the Bar of the House when such person is summoned before the Bar of the House.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is empowered on a Written or Oral Order of the Speaker, to take any person into custody, without a Warrant, who has been found

guilty of indecent behaviour within the premises of the Parliament or the building or who had entered the building in an illegal manner or who causes disturbances or who supports others to do so on a Sitting Day and to keep him in safe custody until such time as the Parliament decides whether or not any punishment should be meted out to him under the Parliament (Powers & Privileges) Act and the Standing Orders. (Please see Annexure "E")

- It is the Serjeant-at-Arms, who, administers the procedure upon the Orders given by the Speaker, which includes the handing over of such persons, who were under arrest.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is directed to immediately look into any matter, when a Member of Parliament raises a matter in the House and he is bound to submit an impartial report of same.
- Serjeant-at-Arms has the power to request any Member of Parliament, who enters the Chamber of the House improperly dressed (not in the approved Attire) to withdraw from the Chamber immediately. (Please see Annexure "F")
- In the performance of his duties, the Serjeant-at-Arms occupies a special place in the Chamber next to the main door.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is the only person, who could carry a weapon (Sword), which is part of his Ceremonial Dress, inside the Chamber of the House.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is a Member of the Association of Serjeants-at-Arms in the Commonwealth Parliaments and attends its Sessions in order to familiarize with the modern developments in the management of Parliaments.
- Serjeant-at-Arms is the Chief Enforcer legally empowered to execute the Orders given by the Hon. Speaker, who is the Guardian of the Privileges of the House.
- The Appointment and the Retirement of the Serjeant-at-Arms is announced in the Parliament as a tradition. And a date will be allocated for a Vote of Appreciation of Service and same will be taken up on the floor of the House at the time of the retirement of the Serjeant-at-Arms. (Please see Annexures "G" and "H")
- The Department of the Serjeant-at-Arms is one of the most important departments in the Parliament and it is the Second oldest department, the first being the Office of the Secretary General of Parliament.
- The present day duties of the Serjeant-at-Arms could best be described as being administrative, very much at the centre of the affairs of the House.

- During the normal Sitting Days of the House, the Serjeant-at-Arms wears a white colour uniform and on Ceremonial Occasions is clad with specially designed black colour Ceremonial Attire. The Post of the Serjeant - at - Arms is equivalent to the Rank of the Lieutenant General.
- Functions of the Serjeant-at-Arms include Ceremonial, Chamber, Security, Visitor Administration, Accommodation, and Departmental. (Detail list of Objectives and Functions do contain in this document)
- Current Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr. Narendra Fernando, is assisted by his Deputy Mr. Kushan Jayaratne and his Assistant Mr. Achintha Cooray, to execute the duties and functions attached to this post.



MISSION

To facilitate the effective functioning of the House of Parliament by providing the highest possible quality services in a timely and efficient manner to the Speaker and the Secretary - General of Parliament.

OBJECTIVES

Ceremonial

- Arrange at the appropriate standard, the ceremonial functions/activities of Parliament and of the Speaker. (including Lying in State funeral activities)

Chamber

- Attend upon the Speaker and carry out those functions, which derive from the Serjeant-at-Arms attendance upon the Speaker as the executive authority of the House.
- Provide high quality direct support to the legislative process by ensuring that the necessary support staff and facilities to enhance the Chamber and Committees of the House to function efficiently.

Security

- Provide a safe and secure environment and infrastructure throughout the Parliamentary Complex by ensuring that the risk from violence, accident and fire for those who work in and visit the Parliamentary Complex is managed and minimized.
- Maintain the physical security of the Parliament and its precincts with the co-operation of the Parliament Police Division, effectively and efficiently and provide useful advice to the Speaker and the Secretary-General of Parliament on protective security for the Members, Staff and Visitors within the Parliamentary Precincts.
- Maintain order within the Precincts of Parliament.
- Ensure that appropriate security checks are undertaken for the granting of security clearance for construction of buildings around the high security area of the Parliamentary Complex.
- Jointly administer Parliamentary Security arrangements with the Director Parliament Police Division including -
 - Access Control;
 - Security Screening;
 - Maintenance of Response Capabilities;
 - Technical Security;

- Liaison with the Three forces, Police and Intelligence Agencies;
- Co-ordination of Specialized Resources;
- Planning on Major Events involving Foreign Dignitaries; and
- Planning on Special Category Threats.

Visitor Administration

- Control and regulate the admission of persons to the Parliamentary Complex.
- Facilitate school visits and other visitors to the Parliament.

Accommodation

- Ensure that the Parliamentary Complex is a good place to work in and to visit by providing a quality environment and infrastructure for Members of Parliament and all those who work in and visit the Parliament.
- Advise on and administer the allocation of accommodation throughout the Parliament Building including the booking of Committee and Interview Rooms.

Departmental

- Provide effective and efficient support to the Head of the Institution in his/her role of providing strategic leadership and overall management of departmental resources and provide quality advice and efficient and effective support services.
- Deliver high quality customer/telephone services to agreed standard and which are relevant and accessible to all who work in and visit Parliament.

FUNCTIONS

Ceremonial

- Organize and conduct all ceremonial functions in Parliament at the appropriate standard as the Chief Ceremonial Officer. (including Lying in State funeral activities)
- Advise the Speaker and the Secretary - General of Parliament on matters of Protocol.
- Custodian of the Mace, which features prominently in the performance of the Ceremonial duties of the position.
- Conceive, develop and execute ceremonial events and programmes for the Speaker and the House.
- Provide the Official Costume/Official Logo/Official Flag and other official requirements of the Speaker.
- Receive visitors (VVIPP/VIPP) of the Speaker and the Secretary - General of Parliament.
- Work relating to MPP Portraits of each Parliament for display in Parliament including unveiling of Portraits of the late Presidents and Prime Ministers, *etc.*
- Execute related work on National/Religious functions in Parliament.
- Execute ceremonial functions of International Conferences, Seminars, *etc.*, organized by Parliament.

Chamber

- Attend the Speaker with the Mace, on entering the House at the commencement of a Sitting Day and on leaving the House at the conclusion of a Sitting Day.
- Presence in the Chamber, whole time, that the House or a Committee of the whole House, is sitting.
- Maintain Order in the Precincts of the House when the House is in Session.
- Facilitate new Members of Parliament to take oath/affirmation in Parliament and alighting them to the Bar, to the Presiding Officer and to the allocated seat.
- Serve or cause to be served Orders of the House and Warrants of the Speaker.
- Arrest and confine all persons ordered by the House to be taken into custody.
- Bring to the Bar of the House, the persons in custody to be reprimanded or examined as witnesses.

- Allocation of Seats for Members of Parliament in the Chamber of Parliament with the approval of the Speaker and preparation of the Seating Plan.
- Preserve Order in and ensure the security of the Galleries and Lobbies of the House.
- Remove any stranger, who causes a disturbance in any part of the Chamber or the Room in which the main Committee is meeting or in any Gallery or those persons who do not withdraw when strangers are directed to withdraw while the House or Main Committee is meeting.
- Chamber support services by providing Parliamentary Services Assistants.
- Record/Confirm the Attendance of Members of Parliament on each Sitting Day of the House.
- Prepare Seniority Lists of Members of Parliament.

Security

- Advise the Speaker and the Secretary General of Parliament on matters of security.
- Attend on the President and the Prime Minister and oversee the arrangements regarding their stay in the Parliament Building.
- Security of Parliament Chamber, Chamber Precincts, other wings and related area.
- Matters relating to conducting tests on food poisoning.
- Provide appropriate security for the House in a competent but unobtrusive way.
- Control the filming and photographing within the Parliamentary Complex with the Orders of the Speaker.
- Liaise with the Parliament Police Division relating to the security of Parliament.
- Arrange Security Meetings presided by the Speaker with Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and the intelligence agencies and co-ordinate with such institutions regarding the security of Parliament, etc.
- Maintenance/Management of Keys (1000 Nos. approximately) of the Parliament Building.
- Grant permission for various public events conducted within the close vicinity/outer perimeter of the Parliamentary Complex.
- Security Clearance matters of the staff working in the Parliamentary Complex and its wings.
- Control and regulate the arrangements for the removal of strangers and for taking into custody those who gain access to the House irregularly, or misconduct themselves there.

Issue of -

- Public Officers' Box Passes
- Public Officers' Passes
- Passes to the Private Secretaries/Chief Security Officers of the Cabinet Ministers
- Dining Room Passes
- Temporary Entry passes to Other Staff/Casual Staff Suppliers
- Vehicle Passes to the approved categories including Vehicle Passes for the Staff working in the Parliamentary Complex
- Members' Chauffeurs' Passes
- Press Reporter and Press Messenger Passes
- Coloured Temporary Passes (Floor/area wise) for the Public Officers' and Visitors
- Public Gallery Passes and VIP Gallery Passes on Sitting Days
- Admission letters to schools, *etc*, to visit the Parliament
- Permission letters for the Dispatch Riders of various Ministries/Departments
- Gate Passes
- Passes for Mobile Phones, Electric/Electronic devices and Media equipment
- Permission letters to work during non - working hours including holidays
- Box Passes for the officers of Parliament/other staff
- Chamber/Lobby Passes
- Issue of Parliamentary Identity Cards for the -
 - Members of Parliament
 - Former Members of Parliament
 - Honorary Officers of Parliament
 - Staff of the Secretary - General of Parliament
 - Other Staff of Parliament
 - Ancillary Staff of Parliament
 - Parliament Police/ Parliament Journalists
 - Retired employees of the Staff of Secretary - General of Parliament
- Control parking of vehicles on the grounds within the Parliamentary Precincts.
- Work relating to maintenance of Fire Fighting equipment, conducting Fire Drills and Fire Fighting Exercises.
- Work relating to maintenance of the X - Ray Inspection Systems.

- Execute all security related work on Ceremonial functions of International Conferences, Seminars, etc. organized by Parliament.
- Random visits to Parliamentary Complex during non - working hours including holidays and attend on matters of exigencies in the Parliamentary Complex on holidays and after office hours.

Visitor Administration

- Control and regulate the admission of persons to the Parliamentary Complex.
- Control and regulate the admission of persons to the Press and other Galleries.

Accommodation

- Reservation services for Committee Rooms, Interview Rooms, Galleries, *etc.*
- Administration of Members' and departmental accommodation providing Members of Parliament and the Staff of Parliament including Ancillary Staff with appropriate accommodation in keeping with the status of the building and the relevant guidelines.
- Allocate Rooms for Ministers and Leaders of Political Parties, *etc.*
- Allocate Lockers/Cupboards for MPP and uniform staff attached to the department.

Departmental

- Preparation of the Action Plan, Progress Reports and other relevant Reports, Papers, Minutes of Meetings, correspondence, etc.
- Responsible for the safekeeping of the furniture and fittings of the House.
- Making arrangements to order flower wreaths on the direction of the Speaker and the Secretary General of Parliament for formal funerals.
- Matters relating to Display Boards, *etc.*
- Provide information about the House and its Members in a timely and accurate manner.
- Matters relating to the Parliament Documentary.
- Overall Control and Management of the following staff (140 Nos.) -
 - Deputy Serjeant - at - Arms (01)
 - Assistant Serjeant - at - Arms (01)
 - Officers attached to the Office of the Department of Serjeant - at - Arms (05)

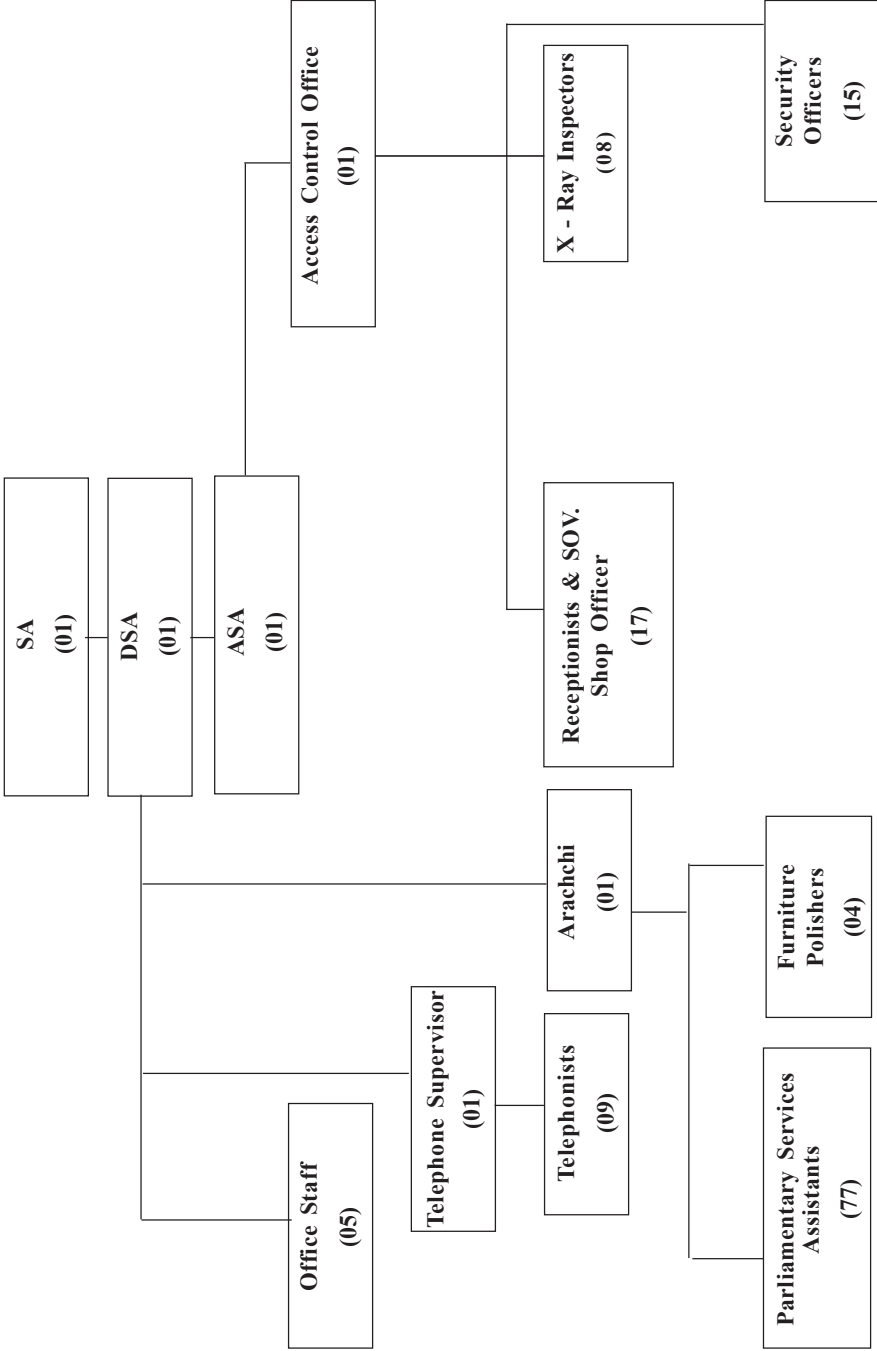
- Officers attached to the Access Control Room (01)
 - Telephone Supervisor (01)
 - Arachchi (01)
 - Receptionists (17)
 - X - Ray Inspectors (08)
 - Telephone Operators (09)
 - Security Officers (15)
 - Parliamentary Services Assistants (77)
 - Furniture Polishers (04)
-
- All printing work at the Department relating to Gallery Passes, Other Passes, forms, *etc.*
 - Recommend the granting of increments, promotions, training facilities of the staff attached to the Department.
 - Provide manpower assistance of Parliamentary Services Assistants to other Offices.
 - Inventory Control within the Department.
 - Prepare Draft Annual Estimates of the Department.
 - Designing, printing and issuing of Coloured Temporary Passes.
 - Confirmation of Attendance of the Members of Parliament and the Staff of Parliament.
 - Uploading images of the MPP to the Parliament Website and the Staff to the Parliament Intranet Portal.
 - Serve as Chairman, Member in the Tender Boards appointed by the Secretary General of Parliament in relation to purchase of equipment/stores and other materials/services to Parliament.
 - Issue of internal circulars to the staff attached to the Department from time to time.
 - Prepare monthly Duty Rosters for Receptionists, X - ray Inspectors, Telephone Operators and Security Officers.
 - Arrange Staff Meetings periodically including Meetings with the Secretary General of Parliament and execute such work.
 - Control and Management of the Souvenir Shop/Stores.
 - Maintenance of File Index, delegation of duties and issue of lists of duties/ duty rosters and related amendments to the staff attached to the department from time to time.
 - Control and Management of MPP Recreation Room including MPP Lockers.

- Direct/Supervise the work relating to sorting and distribution of mail, letters, newspapers, *etc.* received daily at the Reception Counter at the Staff Entrance.
- All furniture polishing work in the Parliamentary Complex.
- Provide timely and efficient telephone service to Speaker, MPP, Staff, *etc.*
- Facilitate waste paper/CD/DVD disposal work.
- Detailing Security Officers and relevant staff to work during non - working hours including holidays.
- Work relating to laundering of uniforms of the uniform staff attached to the -
 - Department of the Serjeant - at - Arms; Co-ordinating Engineer's Department; Administration Department; Hansard Department.
- Recommend and approve payment of bills pertaining to the purchases/ services obtained.
- Serve as Inquiring Officer/Prosecution Officer appointed by the Secretary General of Parliament at departmental inquiries.

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE SERJEANT - AT - ARMS**

FURNITURE POLISHERS	04
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES ASSISTANTS	77
SECURITY OFFICERS	15
X - RAY INSPECTORS	08
RECEPTIONISTS	17
TELEPHONISTS	09
TELEPHONE SUPERVISOR	01
ARACHCHI	01
ACCESS CONTROL ROOM	01
OFFICE	05
ASA	01
DSA	01
SA	01

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE SERJEANT - AT - ARMS**



**An Extract of the Article 65 of the Constitution of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Chapter X - The Legislature - Parliament**

**Re : Article 65 (3) - Appointment of the Staff of
Parliament**

"Secretary
General of
Parliament.

65. (1) There shall be a Secretary - General of Parliament who shall *[] be appointed by the President and who shall hold office during good behaviour.
- (2) The salary of the Secretary - General shall be determined by Parliament, shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund and shall not be diminished during his term of office.
- (3) The members of the staff of the Secretary - General shall be appointed by him with the approval of the Speaker.
- (4) The Salaries of the members of the staff of the Secretary - General shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund.
- (5) The office of the Secretary - General shall become vacant -
- (a) upon his death;
 - (b) on his resignation in writing addressed to the President;
 - (c) on his attaining the age of sixty years, unless Parliament otherwise provides by law;
 - (d) on his removal by the President on account of ill health or physical or mental infirmity; or
 - (e) on his removal by the President upon an address of parliament.
- (6) Whenever the Secretary - General is unable to discharge the functions of his office, the President may** [] appoint a person to act in the place of the Secretary - General."

An Extract of the Hansard of the 11th January, 1949

Pages - 763 and 764

Re : Presentation of Chair and Mace from the House of Commons

Annexure "B"

An Extract of the Hansard of the 11th January, 1949

Pages - 763 and 764

Re : Presentation of Chair and Mace from the House of Commons

763—Presentation of Chair & Mace 11 JANUARY 1949

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday 11th January, 1949.

The House met at 3 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER (The Hon. Mr. A. F. McLEOD) in the Chair.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Dr. V. R. Solomon (Appointed Member) took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance required by law, and signed the Book at the Table.

PRESENTATION OF CHAIR AND MACE FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker at Arms; Mr. Speaker, I have to report that a Delegation sent by the Commons House of Parliament to Great Britain and Northern Ireland to present a Speaker's Chair and a Mace to the House of Representatives, Dublin, is inquiring if this Honourable House would be pleased to receive them.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the wish of the House that the Delegation be admitted?

Hon. Members: Aye!

from House of Commons 764

2.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members of the House of Representatives, and hon. Members of the Delegation from the British House of Commons.—It is with feelings of sincere friendship that I, as the most hospitable of this House, welcome you Gentlemen from across the sea. The gesture of the House of Commons in presenting this House with the two symbols of dignity and authority we welcome and appreciate, the more so, because we realise that gesture embodied from the feelings of high regard and esteem which you Members of the Mother of Parliaments bear towards us, the youngest Parliament of a free and independent country.

The Speaker's Chair, as you well know, stands for the majesty and dignity of the House. In itself—a various emblem—but yet, inspiring feelings of respect and obedience, it is the symbol which lends majesty to the House. The Chair, which you are about to present, an imposing one, and I am sure will always be looked upon with feelings of affection and dignified esteem.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, admit them, please.

The Delegation, consisting of:—Major The Right Hon. James Millar, M.C., T.D., D.L., LL.B., M.P., Deputy Speaker, House of Commons; Major The Right Hon. G. Lloyd George, M.P.; Captain L. D. Gammons, M.P.; T. W. Jordan, Esq., C.B.E., M.P., attended by—

E. A. Fellowes, Esq., C.B., M.C., Clerk Assistant, House of Commons; and

C. J. Harris, Esq., C.B.E., were admitted to the Bar by the Serjeant at Arms.

The Serjeant at Arms; Mr. Speaker, the Delegation from the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: I welcome you, Gentlemen, on behalf of this House. Pray be seated.

[The Delegation having taken their seats.]

4624

N.—J.R. 1058 (1949)

As for the Mace, every one will admit that it is a thing of beauty, designed and carried out by your craftsmen, as lines indicated by us. Each emblem, as it has some particular meaning for us of the East. In short, the various emblems denote Purity, Perseverance, Progress, Plenty and Prosperity, and the whole of it denotes the power and authority not only of the Chair, but also of this House, to safeguard the rights and privileges which are the heritage of a democratic institution such as our House is.

I have no doubt that every Member of this House, whether he be here or not, will pay that respect, regard and honour due to those few craftsmen who most necessarily remain here. Member of this House of their solemn duty, as the great traditions which they have undertaken to uphold.

I must not say more, but conclude by adding my personal appreciation and thanks to the Resolution of the House which will be moved now.

Once again, on behalf of the House offer you, Gentlemen, a very cordial welcome.

The “MACE”

The Mace, the symbol of authority of Parliament, was gifted to the then Ceylon House of Representatives on 11th January, 1949 by the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A delegation led by Major The Right Hon. James Milner, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons handed over the Mace to the then Serjeant - at - Arms, Mr. M. Ismail, MBE at a Meeting of the House of Representatives presided by Sir Francis Molamure, the then Speaker of the House of Representatives. It was the first occasion that the House assembled with the Mace placed in front

Then value of the Mace was £2500. It weighs 28 pounds and measures 48 inches in length. The design of the Mace was based on drawings prepared by late Mr. S. P. Charles and his colleagues attached to the Art Department of the Technical College, Colombo. The mythology connected with the design has had the approval of Dr. Senarath Paranavitana, the then Archaeological Commissioner. The Mace was made by Mr. Deniel Spencer, the famous goldsmith of M/S Gerrads (Pvt) Ltd in England, who supply jewellery to the Buckingham Palace. It is reported that the piece of ebony and the blue sapphires in the Mace had been supplied from Sri Lanka.

The design was inspired by the architecture of the ancient temples of Ceylon and the ornamentation is based on the Lotus. The open Lotus is an emblem of Eternity and Beauty and the closed Lotus depicts perfect peace.

The Mace is composed of a staff of ebony with ornamentation in silver, 18 - carat gold and sapphires. The base is composed of an inverted Lotus in silver and gold and the first knob also includes the Lotus together with two chased gold bands. Above that is a band of sapphires supporting a longer chased gold band, above which is an octagonal silver knob. This in turn supports four sections in silver and 18 - carat gold still in Lotus form, representing the four quarters of the Earth, from which hang sapphires and gold drops. Above this is a cube on which are chased four emblems: the Sun and the moon symbolic of Perpetuity, the Chakra a symbol of Progress and a Bowl of Flowers (Purna Ghata) symbolic of Prosperity. Above this is the main feature of the Mace, a sphere of silver on which are mounted two chased Sinhalese lions (Sehala) with drawn sword. Above this sphere appears again the Lotus, another band of sapphires and an octagonal polished crystal terminal, symbolic of purity.

The Mace has remained the symbol of authority of Parliament and through Parliament, of the Speaker and as such the Mace is an essential part of the

regalia of Parliament. Without it Parliament is not constituted and no proceedings may take place. When the Speaker is in the Chair, that is, when Parliament is sitting, the Mace lies on the Table of the House, resting in the upper brackets below the table of Secretary General of Parliament, the octagonal polished crystal terminal pointing towards the Government benches. When the Speaker leaves the Chair that is when Parliament sits as a Committee, the Mace is removed into the lower brackets beneath the Table to show that the Parliament is not properly constituted.

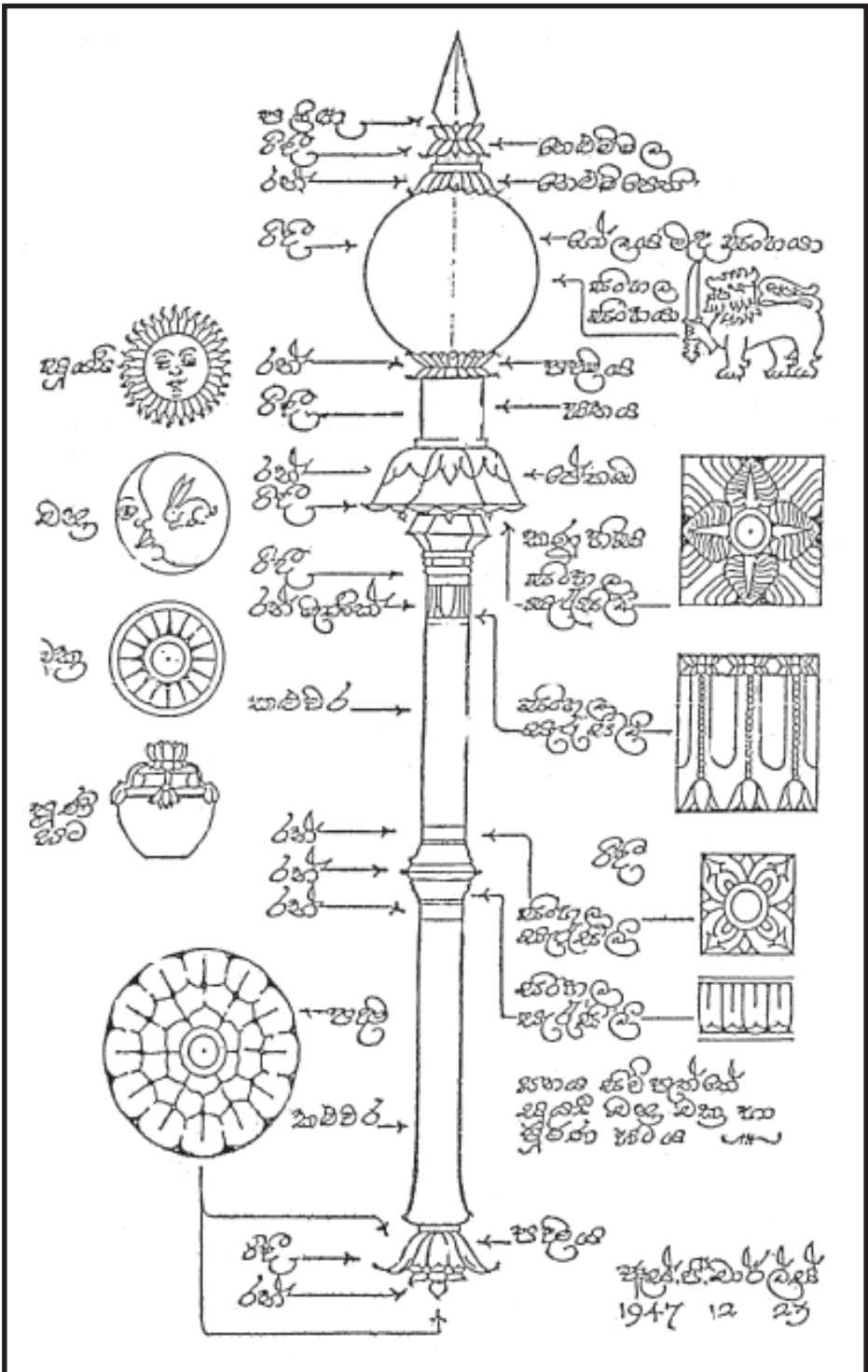
The Mace is an indispensable feature of a number of Parliamentary ceremonies, notably the election of a new Speaker. The election cannot take place without the Mace.

At the first meeting of a new Parliament after the General Election, the Mace is brought into the Chamber by the Serjeant - at - Arms and is placed on the brackets below the Table. When the Speaker has been elected and has taken the Chair, the Serjeant - at - Arms places the Mace in the brackets upon the Table.

In attending and leaving the Chamber, the Speaker is preceded by the Deputy Serjeant - at - Arms and the Serjeant - at - Arms carrying the Mace on his right shoulder and the Secretary General of Parliament and his/her deputies follow the Speaker behind. The Deputy Serjeant - at - Arms announces the presence of the Speaker to the House.



DESIGN OF THE "MACE"



ORDER IN PARLIAMENT

An Extract of the Parliament Standing Orders (S.O. 77-80)

"77.(1) Whenever any Member is named by the Speaker immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of abusing the rules of Parliament by persistently and willfully obstructing the Business of Parliament, or otherwise, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question on a motion being made (no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed) "that such Member be suspended from the service of Parliament.

(2) If any such motion be carried and any Member be suspended under this Standing Order the suspension of such Member on the first occasion shall be for two weeks; on the second occasion during the same session shall be for three weeks; and on the third or any subsequent occasion during the same session shall be for four weeks:

Provided that, a Member whose services have been suspended may be authorized by the Speaker to cast his vote only for the final vote of Appropriation Bill during the period of such suspension.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) above, any Member who comes into contact with the mace or lift the mace while it is kept within the precincts of the House commits a grave disorder and shall be suspended for a period of four weeks notwithstanding the fact that such offence was committed by that Member on the first occasion.

(4) Not more than one Member shall be named at the same time, unless several Members present together have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair.

(5) If any Member or Members acting jointly who have been suspended under this Standing Order from the service of Parliament, refuse, at any time during the period of suspension, to obey the direction of the Speaker to withdraw from the precincts of Parliament, the Speaker may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce his decision.

(6) If an offence under paragraph (1) above is committed in a Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chair shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to Parliament and the Speaker shall on a motion being made thereupon put the same question without amendment, adjournment or debate, as if the offence has been committed in Parliament.

78. The Speaker, after having called the attention of Parliament to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments made by other Members in debate may direct the Member to discontinue his speech and may order that the live broadcast be discontinued.

79. (1) The Speaker shall order a Member whose conduct amounts to gross disorder to withdraw immediately from Parliament during the remainder of the sitting of the day and may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce his order. The Serjeant-at-Arms shall act on such order.

(2) If on any occasion the Speaker deems that his powers under this Standing Order are inadequate, he may name such Members in pursuance of Standing Order 77.

80. Any Member who is suspended under Standing Order 77 or is directed to withdraw under Standing Order 79 shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of Parliament and shall during the period of such suspension, be debarred also from the Committees.

For the purposes of this Chapter, "Precincts of Parliament" includes the Parliament Buildings and the land area from Gate No. 1 to Gate No. 3 of the Parliament."

**Extracts of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act
(Chapter 383)**

**Part B - Offences to be punishable by Parliament or the
Supreme Court**

"29. For the purpose of securing the attendance of any person at the Bar of Parliament for admonition under Section 28 of removing from the precincts of Parliament any person whose removal has been ordered under that section, or whose entry has been prohibited under that section, it shall be lawful for the gentleman-Usher or the Serjeant-at-Arms as the case may be or any other officer of Parliament or police officer, if ordered so to do by the President or the Speaker, to arrest such person without warrant at any place within the precincts of Parliament and to use such reasonable force as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid".

Power of
arrest for
carrying out
punishment.

"PART B

OFFENCES TO BE PUNISHABLE BY PARLIAMENT OR THE SUPREME COURT

1. The wilful failure or refusal to obey any order or resolution of Parliament under this Act, or any order of the President or Speaker or any member which is duly made under this Act.
2. Wilful disobedience to any order for attendance or for production of papers, books, records or documents made by Parliament or any committee duly authorized in that behalf unless such attendance or production be excused as provided in section 13 and section 15 of the Act.
3. Refusing to be examined before or to answer any lawful and relevant question put by Parliament or any such committee, unless such refusal be excused as provided in section 13 and section 15.
4. Assaulting, insulting or wilfully obstructing any Member in Parliament in committee or in the precincts of Parliament.
5. Assaulting or resisting or wilfully interfering with an officer of Parliament in the Chamber or in committee or in the precincts of Parliament.

6. Creating or joining in any disturbance in the Chamber or in committee or in the vicinity of Parliament while Parliament or any committee is sitting, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that proceedings of Parliament or committee are or are likely to be interrupted.

7. Disrespectful conduct in the precincts of Parliament.

8. Prevarication or other misconduct as a witness before Parliament or in committee.

9. The publication of any proceedings in committee of Parliament before they are reported to Parliament.

10. The abetment of any act or omission specified in any of the preceding paragraphs."

An Extract of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Leaders held in the Chambers of the Hon. Speaker on Wednesday, 14th November, 1973 at 4.00 p.m. (Re: Attire of Members of Parliament)

"2. Mr. Speaker informed the Leaders of Parties that a question has arisen lately in regard to the attire of Members of Parliament. He said that since of late certain Members have been observed wearing a variety of tunic coats when they attend Sittings of the Assembly. He added that the attire of the Members formed an integral part in maintaining decorum and dignity of the Assembly, and therefore, it is necessary to lay down certain standard requirements of dress to which members should adhere.

Mr. Speaker suggested that only the following modes of dress should be permitted within the Chamber in the future:-

- (1) The National Dress
- (2) The Lounge Suit
- (3) The long sleeved tunic coat buttoned upto the neck with trousers or cloth.

He added that no headgear other than that associated with an accepted religious belief should be allowed inside the Chamber.

The Leaders of Parties, after discussion, agreed with the above proposals and decided that they should be implemented with effect from the commencement of next year.

The Leaders also agreed that Mr. Speaker should bring to the notice of the Members of Parliament their decision on this matter in due course."

The Current Dress Code

(In conformity with decisions taken at the Party Leaders' Meeting held on 14 November, 1973 and subsequent decisions taken henceforth and traditions followed hitherto)

- (a) National dress/ full European suit/ long sleeved tunic buttoned up to the neck (with trousers or sarong) for Members of Parliament.
- (b) Saree and jacket for lady Members of Parliament
- (c) Accepted dress as per religious rituals and traditions
- (d) Head covering as religious rituals and traditions

The Members are informed to dress in lighter coloured clothing as far as possible and should refrain from wearing dark coloured/colourful or stripped/ checked clothes to the Chamber.

**An Extract of the Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) of
04th September 2018 - Volume 263 - No. 10 Page 7
Re : Announcement of the Appointment of the
Serjeant-at-Arms of Parliament**

**“ නිවේදන
அறிவிப்புகள்
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

II

**පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ චේතුවාරි පත් කිරීම
(பாராளுமன்ற படைக்கலச் சேவிதர் நியமனம்)
APPOINTMENT OF SERJEANT-AT-ARMS OF
PARLIAMENT**

ගරු කථානායකතුමා
(மாண்புமிகு சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள்)
(The Hon. Speaker)

ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ චේතුවාරි තනතුර සඳහා නියෝජ්‍ය චේතුවාරි තරේන්ද්‍ර ප්‍රනාන්දු මහතා 2018 අගෝස්තු මස 30 වැනි දින සිට බල පැවැත්වෙන පරිදි පත් කරනු ලැබ ඇති බව පාර්ලිමේන්තුවට දන්වනු කැමැත්තෙමි”.

1698

“ කල් තැබීම
(ஒத்திவைப்பு)
ADJOURNMENT

ගරු ලක්ෂ්මන් කීර්ඳැල්ල මහතා
(மாண்புமிகு லக்ஷ்மன் கிரிஎல்ல)
(The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella)

ගරු කථානායකතුමනි, “පාර්ලිමේන්තුව දැන් කල් තැබිය යුතුය” යි මා යෝජනා කරනවා.

ප්‍රශ්නය සහානිමුඛ කරන ලදී.
வினா எடுத்தியம்பப்பெற்றது.
Question proposed.

1699

අනිල් පරාක්‍රම සමරසේකර මහතා: සේවය ඇගයීම
திரு. அனில் பராக்கிரம சமரசேகர : சேவை பாராட்டு
MR. ANIL PARAKRAMA SAMARASEKERA: APPRECIATION
OF SERVICE

(අ.හා. 6.21)

ගරු ලක්ෂ්මන් කීර්ඳැල්ල මහතා
(மாண்புமிகு லக்ஷ்மன் கிரிஎல்ல)
(The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella)

ගරු කථානායකතුමනි, මම පහත සඳහන් යෝජනාව ඉදිරිපත් කරනවා:

“මෙම පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ වේතුවාරිවරයා වශයෙන් මෙම ගරු සභාව තුළ වසර 12ක පමණ කාලයක් සේවය කළ, පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ සේවා කාලය වසර 22ක් සම්පූර්ණ කර විශ්‍රාම ගන්නා අනිල් පරාක්‍රම සමරසේකර මහතා ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුවට කරන ලද විශිෂ්ට සේවාව මෙම ගරු සභාව අගය කරන අතර, ඔහු විශ්‍රාම යන අවස්ථාවේ මෙම පාර්ලිමේන්තුව ඔහුට ශුභාශීංසනය කරයි”.

THE MACE OF THE UPPER HOUSE (THE SENATE)

The Mace used by the Upper House (Senate) which existed till 1972 was handed over to the Senate by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke on November 01, 1956.

The manufacture of this Mace which is said to have been designed by an artist named W. A. Ariyasena of the College of Fine Arts was entrusted to a jewellery manufacturing company in Colombo called Hemachandra Brothers'. The creation of the Mace has been done by craftsman E. N. Piyathilake of Dombemada, Rambukkana following instructions of the said company.

This Mace, which is 52 inches long and weighs 7 1/2 pounds, consists of 355 parts and can be dismantled into forty parts. Among the items used in the creation of this masterpiece are two portions of ivories, 45 gold sovereigns of 20 carat, 45 pieces of silver weighing 3 1/2 pounds and a number of gem stones.

The Pali text "Santhindriyocha Nipacocha" is engraved on the upper portion of the Mace.

Officers who held the Post of Gentleman Usher from 1949 onwards

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Mr. V. T. Dickman | - July 1949 to June 1958 |
| * Major W. P. J. Silva, MBE, CLI | - June 1958 to June 1959 |
| * Lt. Cdr. N. P. S. Wijeyewickrema | - June 1959 to July 1964 |

(From July 1964 to 1972 Lt. Cdr. N.P.S. Wijeyewickrema held the Post of Superintendent of Senate Building and Gentleman Usher)

