

Budget Committee Stage - 2025
Delimitation Commission
Progress Report
(01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024)

Delimitation Commission – Progress Report From 1st January 2024 to 30th December 2024

1.0 Background

HE the President appointed the Delimitation Commission for a period of three years from 19.05.2023 in terms of Article 41(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Dr.K.Thavalingam was appointed as Member and Chairman of the Commission and Dr. Anila Dias Bandaranaike and Mr. M.I.Ameer as members.

Articles 95 and 96 of the Constitution state the mandate of the Commission. However, unlike for most other Commissions, the Constitution does not mention the following in respect of the Delimitation Committee

- Functions of the Commission
- Powers of the Commission

It was conveyed that all delimitations of geographical boundaries would be rationalized under the new mandate of a single Delimitation Commission once it is spelt out in an amendment to the Constitution or under a new Constitution. For this purpose an Act should be passed to vest powers in the Commission and currently action in being taken to draft same and to forward to the Secretary to the President for further action.

2.0 Vision:- To achieve excellence in boundary delimitation based on ethical and equitable principles.

Mission:- To conduct boundary delimitation as mandated by the Constitution in an independent, ethical, equitable, efficient, transparent and credible manner in accordance with the law.

Objectives:-

- To ensure that the boundaries of electoral and other administrative units are drawn in a way as to achieve equitable representation for each and every voter or citizen to the greatest degree possible safeguarding the democratic rights of the people and the democratic atmosphere.
- To complete delimitation of electoral divisions or administrative divisions for administrative or socio-economic services such as education, health or security within the scheduled time frame.
- To provide knowledge and data on delimitation to the government and to the institutions to facilitate their decisions.
- To establish a resource centre for information and related material on delimitation.

3.0 Activities

- 3.1 Twelve (12) meetings of the Commission were held from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024, to discuss Administrative and Policy Matters of the Commission.

Meeting No.	10	10.01.2024	Meeting No.	16	17.07.2024
	11	12.02.2024		17	20.08.2024
	12	14.03.2024		18	25.09.2024
	13	17.04.2024		19	23.10.2024
	14	14.05.2024		20	22.11.2024
	15	19.06.2024		21	16.12.2024

- 3.2 **Preparation of handbills by Delimitation Commission to educate those who show an inertest towards the working of the Commission.**

The Commission prepared two handbills as Question and Answers (Q and A) to documents educate the public documents in three languages to be distributed among the public. IRES assisted the Commission is printing the handbills supported by PAFFREL. However this activity had to be postponed as the Presidential Election 2024 came about in September 2024. Commission has planned to obtain assistance of the donors to get it printed.

- 3.3 **Presentation of proposals for the Revision of Electoral Laws.**

On 04.12.2023 The Delimitation Commission presented to the Presidential Investigation Commission its proposals to be considered in the revision of electoral laws. At the invitation of the Presidential Investigation Commission the Delimitation Commission met with the Presidential Investigation Commission on 04.06.2024 and explained its proposals. The report of the Investigation Commission is now available .

- 3.4 **Gender equality in Elections**

Delimitation Commission decided and prepared an article on the need for Gender equality with the intention of presenting it at the Annual Research Symposium of the Election Commission. This never materialised in view of the Presidential Election scheduled for September 2024.

4. Administrative Matters

4.1 Office Facilities for Delimitation Commission

Surveyor General provided space for the Delimitation Commission free of charge in the premises of the Surveyor General's Department, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

Present Official Address

Delimitation Commission
Surveyor General's Office Building
P.O. Box 506
Colombo 05

4.2 Transport Facilities

Vehicles No CAP 7180 and CAR 0347 were provided to the Delimitation Commission in the year 2016 which were registered under the Secretary to the President. The ownership of this two vehicles were transferred to the Secretary Delimitation Commission on 28.05.2024. Vehicle No. CAP 7180 assigned to the Chairman of Commission and CAR 0347 is attached to the Vehicle pool of the Commission. There two vehicles are being used for official transport of the Commission.

4.3 Appointment of the Staff of the Delimitation Commission

Considering the workload assigned to the Delimitation Commission, the Director General of Management Services has approved following appointments by his letter No DMS/1029 dated 05.02.2016.

Post	Level	No of Posts	Salary Code
Secretary	Senior	01	SL-3-2006
Accountant	Senior	01	SL-1-2006
Co-ordinating Secretary	Tertiary	01	ස.ප.ප. 6/2006
Administrative Officer	Tertiary	01	MN-7-2006
Translator	Secondary	03	MN-6-2006
IT Assistant	Secondary	02	MT-1-2006
Public Management Assistant	Secondary	02	MN-2-2006
Driver	Primary	02	PL-3-2006
Office Assistant	Primary	02	PL-1-2006
Total		15	

The employment profile as at 31.12.2024 is as follows

Post	Approved	Filled	Vacancies
Secretary	01	01 ^a	-
Accountant	01	01 ^a	-
Co-ordinating Secretary	01	01	-
Administrative Officer	01	01	-
Translator	03	0	03
IT Assistant	02	0	02
Public Management Assistant	02	02	-
Driver	02	02	-
Office Assistant	02	02	-
Total	15	09	06

a – Acting

- Mr. Anura Muthumala, Additional Surveyor General (Admin & HR) was appointed as Acting Secretary of the Delimitation Commission for a period of one year from 21.02.2024 to 20.02.2025 or until a permanent officer is appointed, a scenario whichever occurs first.
- Subject to the covering approval of the Public Service Commission, Accountant Mr. E.G.S. Sisira Kumara, who was working in the Ministry of Fisheries was appointed as the Accountant of the Commission from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 for a period of one year to act in the post of Accountant.

5. Financial Matters

- Allocation for the year 2024 was Rs. 18.16m as per the Appropriation Bill, where the recurrent expenditure was Rs.17.86m and capital expenditure was Rs.0.3m.
- Up to end of December 2024 the recurrent expenditure was Rs. 15.29m. No capital expenditure has been incurred.