



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 57.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 04, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker

Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Hon. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

Hon. (Dr.) Anil Jayantha, Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, Minister of Justice and National Integration

Hon. (Dr.) Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment

Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Ananda Wijepala, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. K.V. Samantha Viddyarathna, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

- Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe**, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi**, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Sunil Handunnetti**, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development
- Hon. Vijitha Herath**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism
- Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development
- Hon. Namal Karunaratne**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
- Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku**, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
- Hon. Eranga Gunasekara**, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
- Hon. Anton Jayakody**, Deputy Minister of Environment
- Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana**, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security
- Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera**, Deputy Minister of Defence
- Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne**, Deputy Minister of Sports
- Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake**, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa**, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment
- Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep**, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Muneer Mulafter**, Deputy Minister of National Integration
- Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Tourism
- Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law**, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs
- Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
- Hon. T. B. Sarath**, Deputy Minister of Housing
- Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana**, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning
- Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
- Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna**, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
- Hon. Nalin Hewage**, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education
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Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hessa Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. Arkam Ilyas
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena

Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Gayan Janaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara

Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna

Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara
Hon. Aravinda Senarath
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Muhammad Faizal
Hon. Riyas Farook

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker: The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of another two petitions on 03rd June 2025 which had been filed in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Sri Lanka Electricity (Amendment)’, in addition to the receipt of the Petition mentioned in my announcement dated 03rd June 2025.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Part LXV of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022;
- (ii) Second Installment – Part XLV and Third Installment – Part XVIII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023; and
- (iii) Second Installment – Part I of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2024

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation presented the Annual Report of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Fisheries Reward Fund for the year 2024;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2024; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources for the year 2024

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented the Annual Report of the Local Loans and Development Fund for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Report of the National Library and Documentation Services Board for the year 2021 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration presented the Report of the Committee on Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration in consultation with the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption under Section 156 read with Sections 82 and 92 of the Anti — Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2428/43 of 20th March 2025 which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) The Hon. Ajith P. Perera, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Development presented the Report of the Committee on National Transport Commission (Amendment) Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(3) The Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera, the Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Second Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament only in Sinhala language with the special leave of the House.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

(1) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented—

- (i) A petition dated 07.03.2025 from Mr. D. D. Chaminda of No.139/1 B, Rendapala Junction, Dodamgoda;
- (ii) A petition dated 03.03.2025 from Mr. D. R. M. Ariyaratna of No. 16, Miriswatta, Mahawila, Panadura; and
- (iii) A petition dated 22.02.2025 from Mr. Thilak Weerakoon of No. 204 D/6, Rest House Place, Ingiriya.

(2) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented a petition dated 24.02.2025 from Mr. U. J. C. Ekanayaka of No. 155/1, Palleyaya, Muwandeniya, Matale.

(3) Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan presented a petition dated 05.12.2024 from Mr. T. Shanmugalingam of Warnamedu, Thampalagamamam.

(4) Hon. Upul Kithsiri presented a petition dated 15.03.2025 from Mr. M. B. Nawarathna of Rathna Niwasa, Halmillaketiya School Road, Thunkama, Embilipitiya.

- (5) Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage presented a petition dated 25.02.2025 from Mr. D. M. Rohana of No. 230/M/03, Sandagiriwatta, Asgiriya, Gampaha.
- (6) Hon. Thanura Dissanayake presented—
- (i) A petition dated 15.02.2025 from Mr. E. M. K. G. Disanayaka of No. 1/155, Wepathana - Gomagoda;
 - (ii) A petition dated 03.02.2025 from Mr. R. P. S. Rajapaksha of No. 24, Punchi Bogahapitiya, Kengalle; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 10.12.2024 from Mr. R.M.K.B. Rathnayaka of No. 375/2/B, Medawala Road, Hedeniya, Werellagama, Kandy.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill — Committee

Parliament resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Speaker took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were agreed to.

Clause 5

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed an amendment to leave out lines 33 to 39 (both inclusive) in page 25 and substitute the following:—

“(2) The examination of a witness through contemporaneous audio-visual linkage shall be recorded in open court in writing by the Judge of the High Court or the Magistrate or in his presence and hearing at the court point and under his personal direction and supervision as any proceeding conducted physically in the court and, such examination shall also be recorded electronically only at the court point where such Judge or the Magistrate is sitting.”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 3 (both inclusive) in page 26.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to leave out lines 23 to 30 (both inclusive) in page 30.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration proposed another amendment to leave out lines 8 to 32 (both inclusive) in page 35 and substitute the following:—

““government institution” includes the office of the Secretary to the President, the office of the Secretary to the Prime Minister, the office of the Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers, the offices of the Ministers appointed under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution, the Judicial Service Commission, the Constitutional Council, the Commissions referred to in the Schedule to Article 41B of the Constitution, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, the Secretary-General of Parliament, any Ministry or Department of the Government, a Provincial Council, a Provincial Ministry or Department, a local authority, a Public Corporation, a business or other undertaking vested in the Government under any written law, any company registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, in which the Government, a public corporation or a local authority holds more than fifty *per centum* of the shares of that Company and any hospital, health care service facility, clinic, centre for disabled persons, detention centre, prison, children's home, shelter home, safe house, child care centre, remand home or any centre, home or school for the care, protection or custody of children or youthful offenders, owned or controlled by the Government or a Provincial Council or a local authority.”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Regulations under the Anti - Corruption Act: The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice and National Integration in consultation with the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption under Section 156 read with Sections 82 and 92 of the Anti - Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2428/43 of 20th March 2025, which were presented on 20.05.2025, be approved.

(At 11.24 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.03 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment: The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.41 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 05, 2025.