



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 124.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. K.D. Lal Kantha, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

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

Hon. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy

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

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

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

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

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe, Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyaratna, 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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Chaturanga Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

- Hon. Arkam Ilyas**, Deputy Minister of Power
- Hon. Namal Karunaratne**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
- Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku**, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
- Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
- Hon. R.M. Jayawardhana**, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security
- Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development
- Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Labour
- Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera**, Deputy Minister of Defence
- Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake**, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep**, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure
- Hon. Muneer Mulafer**, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law**, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni**, Deputy Minister of Health
- Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy
- Hon. T. B. Sarath**, Deputy Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply
- Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana**, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs
- Hon. Aravinda Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation
- Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna**, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
- Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake**, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
- Hon. Arun Hemachandra**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment
- Hon. Nalin Hewage**, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

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- Hon. Roshan Akmeemana**
- Hon. Ajith Agalakada**
- Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa**
- Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law**
- Hon. Hector Appuhamy**
- Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana**
- Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law**
- Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama**

Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC
Hon. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindrane Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera

Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
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. 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. 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. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Sudath Balagalla

Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. Thahir Marrikkar
Hon. Imran Maharooof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
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. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
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 announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Colombo Port City Economic Commission (Amendment)’ on 20th of January 2026 in terms of the Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of another petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled “Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal)”, in addition to the receipt of three Petitions mentioned in my announcement dated 20 January 2026.”

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Speaker presented the First Installment – Parts XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXV and XXXVI, Fourth Installment – Parts XIX and XX, Fifth Installment – Parts VIII and IX and Sixth Installment – Part XXV 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 Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

3. Presentation of reports from Committees: (1) Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Government Information for the years 2022 and 2024; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Mass Media Division of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media for the year 2024

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Probation & Child Care Services for the year 2024; and
- (ii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited for the years 2021 and 2023

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 23.10.2025 from Mr. R.P.N.R. Gunawardhana of No. 88/A/1, Panawala Road, Kongasdeniya, Nittambuwa; and
 - (ii) A petition dated 07.07.2025 from Mr. W.P. Wimalaratne of No.137/1/1, Etikehelgalla, Weliveriya.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera presented a petition dated 27.05.2025 from Mr. M.K. Ananda of ‘Piyumi’, Mulana, Hungama.

- (3) Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 21.07.2025 from Mr. Rajika Niroshan Gamage of Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakelle.

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

5. Sittings of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Select Committee of Parliament to conduct a comprehensive study on the lack of preparedness to face Cyclone Ditwah and report to Parliament and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard: Hon. Gayanta Karunathilaka seconded by Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, moved,— Whereas the loss of lives, damage to property and damage to the people caused by Cyclone Ditwah, which is considered to be the worst tragedy in the history of Sri Lanka, have not yet been assessed;

And whereas action was taken to appoint Select Committees of Parliament in the recent times with regard to two such disasters, namely the Easter Sunday attack and the economic crisis as well;

And whereas it is believed that this disaster is unique as far as the disasters that have occurred so far are concerned;

And whereas it has already been revealed in Parliament that the Department of Meteorology and foreign media had from time to time warned about and forecasted this extremely tragic situation; and

Whereas the damage caused by Cyclone Ditwah could have been prevented to a significant extent if the relevant parties had been prepared in advance to face the situation;

That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to conduct a comprehensive study on the lack of preparedness to face Cyclone Ditwah and report to Parliament and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
- (b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall not consist of more than twelve (12) Members.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;

- (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
- (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of three months (03) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

7. Adjournment (Post-cyclone "Ditwah" Situation in the Country): The Hon. Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

(At 10.59 the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

The Minister of Environment moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.48 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.09 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026.