



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 133.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, February 20, 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. 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. (Prof.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

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

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 Finance and Planning

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

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

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

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne, Deputy Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Arkam Ilyas, Deputy Minister of Power
Hon. Namal Karunaratne, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Hon. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources
Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development
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. Wasantha Piyathissa, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment
Hon. Muneer Mulaffer, 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.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
Hon. K. Ilankumaran
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi

Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan

Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara

Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage

Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Ajith Gihan

Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha

Hon. Ashoka Gunasena

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law

Hon. T.K. Jayasundara

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law

Hon. M.A.M. Thahir

Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake

Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Thanura Dissanayake

Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna

Hon. Kins Nelson

Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara

Hon. Aruna Panagoda

Hon. Ajith P. Perera

Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Balagalla
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
Hon. S.M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe

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. 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. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, 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

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill titled ‘Institute of Real Estate Professionals, Sri Lanka’ on 19th February 2026 in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. ”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. Vijitha Herath to serve on the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report to Parliament on the matter of selecting the Electoral System under which the Provincial Council Elections should be held and submit its proposals and recommendations in that regard: —

Hon. Muneer Mulaffer
Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Arun Hemachandra
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC”.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) Hon. Speaker as the Chair of the Committee on Standing Orders presented Report of the Committee on Standing Orders regarding the amendments to the Standing Orders 119 and 120.

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

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Science, Technology and Digital Transformation on the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 2024;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Technology for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Performance Reports of the Department of Registration of Persons for the years 2023 and 2024

which were referred to the Committee.

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

(3) The Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney-at-Law, Member of the Committee on behalf of the Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law, The Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations on the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Bill which was referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 27.07.2025 from Mrs. H.A. Rajika Jeewani Hettiarachchi of Kevitiya, Halmillawewa.
- (2) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented a petition dated 09.08.2025 from Mr. U. Sarath of 'Sewwandhi', Puhuwala Junction, Meewanapalana, Horana.
- (3) Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 30.09.2025 from Mr. I. Dayawansha de Silva of No.120/A/56, Jayanthi Mawatha, Pamunugama, Alubomulla, Panadura.
- (4) Hon. Sunil Biyanwila presented a petition dated 18.08.2025 from Mrs. T.W. Ajantha Nilmini Kumari Dissanayaka of 7th Mile Post, Moragolla, Bambaragaswewa, Galewela.

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

(At 11.10 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

4. Sittings of the Parliament: The Hon. Minister Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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. Adjournment (Issues Relating to Power Sector) : The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question Proposed and debated.

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

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.39 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Energy moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Mathugoda, do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.08 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Mathugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning moved,— That Hon. Kins Nelson do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.07 p.m. Hon. Kins Nelson took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.50 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 03, 2026.