



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 137.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, March 06, 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. 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. 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.) 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 and Urban Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

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

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. 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. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

Hon. Rathna Gamage, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Urban Development

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. Sugath Thilakaratne, Deputy Minister of Sports

Hon. Muneer Mullafer, 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. Upali Samarasingha, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

Hon. Nalin Hewage, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

Hon. Ajith Agalakada

Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
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. Upul Kithsiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
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. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Ajith Gihan
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha

Hon. Ashoka Gunasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law
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. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu
Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Nanda Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara
Hon. Ravindra Bandara
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga
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. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. R.M. Samantha Ranasinghe
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. M.S. Abthul Wazeeth
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
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. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law

Hon. Muhammad Faizal

Hon. Riyas Farook

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Lalith AthulathMudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2023;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment for the year 2024; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka 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.

(2) The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Archaeology for the year 2024 and moved that report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Kabir Hashim, Member of Parliament, the Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Fourth, Fifth, Six, Seventh and Eight Reports of the Committee on Public Accounts for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament only in Sinhala language with special leave of the House.

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

(2) The Hon. Kabir Hashim, Member of Parliament, the Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts presented the Ninth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the First Session of the Tenth Parliament.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna presented a petition dated 02.01.2025 from Mr. K.A.P. Perera of No 33, Medawala, Diyabubula, Kengalla.
- (2) Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi presented—
 - (i) A petition dated 31.07.2025 from Mrs. M. Jeewanthi Sandarekha Peris of No. A/65, Bendaluwa, Parakaduwa;
 - (ii) A petition dated 21.07.2025 from Mr. U.J.P. Kumarasiri of No. 1/380, Embuldeniya, Gileemale, Rathnapura; and
 - (iii) A petition dated 09.12.2025 from Mrs. W.H.R. Rupasinghe of No A/19, Kosgala, Kahangama, Rathnapura.
- (3) Hon. B. Ariyawansa presented a petition dated 04.02.2026 from Mr. K.A.C. Karasinghe of No 707, New Town, Kolonna.
- (4) Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani presented a petition dated 27.07.2025 from Mrs. M.P.K.H. Pathirana of No 33, S.O.S Road, Monaragala.

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

4. Business of the Parliament (No. 1),— The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That the Government Business shall have precedence this day.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Business of the Parliament (No. 2),— The Leader of the House of Parliament,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 81 and 82 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Resolution under the Public Security Ordinance,— The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Proclamation made by the President under Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), as amended by Act, No. 8 of 1959 and Law, No. 6 of 1978 of the National State Assembly and Act, No. 28 of 1988, bringing into operation the provisions of Part II of the aforesaid Ordinance throughout Sri Lanka with effect from 28th February, 2026, 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 Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agree to.

(At 2.37 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agree to.

(At 4.07 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

(At 5.07 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question that the sums be agreed to, put, and agreed to; Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes: 108; Noes: 08.

The following Hundred and Six (106) Members of Parliament voted by using the electronic voting system under the Standing Order 47(2)(b) of the Parliament, as follows:—

G 002. Sunil Handunnetti	Yes
G 003. K.D. Lal Kantha	Yes
G 005. Nalinda Jayathissa	Yes
G 006. Bimal Rathnayake	Yes
G 007. Harini Amarasuriya	Yes
G 009. Ramalingam Chandrasekar	Yes
G 010. Wasantha Samarasinghe	Yes
G 011. A.H.M.H. Abayarathna	Yes
G 013. Anil Jayantha	Yes
G 014. Harshana Nanayakkara	Yes
G 015. Dammika Patabendi	Yes
G 016. Saroja Savithri Paulraj	Yes
G 017. Ananda Wijepala	Yes
G 018. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi	Yes

G 019. Sunil Kumara Gamage	Yes
G 020. Kumara Jayakody	Yes
G 021. Rizvie Salih	Yes
G 023. Upali Pannilage	Yes
G 025. Nihal Galappaththi	Yes
G 026. Nihal Abeysinghe	Yes
G 030. R.M. Jayawardhana	Yes
G 031. Sunil Watagala	Yes
G 032. Rathna Gamage	Yes
G 033. Mahinda Jayasinghe	Yes
G 034. Chathuranga Abeysinghe	Yes
G 035. Eranga Gunasekara	Yes
G 036. Upali Samarasingha	Yes
G 041. Hemali Weerasekara	Yes
G 044. Muneer Mulaffer	Yes
G 045. Hansaka Wijemuni	Yes
G 046. Eranga Weeraratne	Yes
G 047. Namal Sudarshana	Yes
G 048. P. Ruwan Senarath	Yes
G 049. Madhura Senevirathna	Yes
G 050. Arun Hemachandra	Yes
G 053. Sugath Thilakaratne	Yes
G 054. Kaushalya Ariyaratne	Yes
G 055. Arkam Ilyas	Yes
G 058. Nishantha Jayaweera	Yes
G 059. Asoka Ranwala	Yes
G 060. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi	Yes
G 062. Najith Indika	Yes
G 063. Lakmali Hemachandra	Yes
G 064. Samanmali Gunasingha	Yes
G 065. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake	Yes
G 067. K. Ilankumaran	Yes
G 068. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha	Yes
G 069. Ajith Agalakada	Yes
G 070. Sagarika Athauda	Yes
G 072. U. P. Abeywickrama	Yes
G 076. Oshani Umanga	Yes

G 077. Krishnan Kalaichelvi	Yes
G 078. Upul Kithsiri	Yes
G 080. Chaminda Lalith Kumara	Yes
G 081. Sarath Kumara	Yes
G 082. Nilanthi Kottahachchi	Yes
G 083. M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani	Yes
G 084. Darmapriya Wijesinghe	Yes
G 085. Thilanka U. Gamage	Yes
G 086. Nilusha Lakmali Gamage	Yes
G 087. Ajantha Gammeddage	Yes
G 088. Ajith Gihan	Yes
G 089. Jagath Gunawardana	Yes
G 090. Aboobucker Athambawa	Yes
G 091. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody	Yes
G 095. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy	Yes
G 097. Sugath Wasantha de Silva	Yes
G 098. Anushka Thilakarathne	Yes
G 100. Thanura Dissanayake	Yes
G 102. Sujeewa Dissanayake	Yes
G 103. Kanthasamy Prabu	Yes
G 104. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna	Yes
G 105. Sena Nanayakkara	Yes
G 106. Aruna Panagoda	Yes
G 107. Nimal Palihena	Yes
G 108. Nishantha Perera	Yes
G 109. Stepni Fernando	Yes
G 111. Lal Premanath	Yes
G 112. Nanda Bandara	Yes
G 113. Padmasiri Bandara	Yes
G 114. Ravindra Bandara	Yes
G 116. Sri Bavanandarajah	Yes
O 014. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan	No
O 015. G.G. Ponnambalam	No
O 018. Dilith Jayaweera	No
O 019. Sivagnanam Shritharan	No
O 039. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran	No
O 040. Gnanamuththu Srineshan	No

O 066. Wijesiri Basnayake	Yes
O 067. S. Sandaruwan Madarasinghe	Yes
O 069. Jagath Manuwarna	Yes
O 071. Nandana Millagala	Yes
O 079. Elayathamby Srinath	No
O 080. Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam	No
O 081. Danushka Ranganath	Yes
O 082. Sanjeeva Ranasingha	Yes
O 083. Sunil Rathnasiri	Yes
O 086. Manoj Rajapaksha	Yes
O 088. Hasara Liyanage	Yes
O 090. Kanchana Welipitiya	Yes
O 091. R. G. Wijerathna	Yes
O 094. Ruwan Wijeweera	Yes
O 095. Lasith Bhashana Gamage	Yes
O 100. Ambika Samivel	Yes
O 101. Dewananda Suraweera	Yes
O 102. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi	Yes
O 105. Janaka Senarathna	Yes
O 106. Chandima Hettiaratchi	Yes
O 107. Champika Hettiarachchi	Yes
O 108. Dinesh Hemantha	Yes
O 110. Bhagya Sri Herath	Yes
O 112. Ashoka Gunasena	Yes
O 113. Nandana Pathmakumara	Yes
O 115. Samantha Ranasingha	Yes

The following Two (02) Members of Parliament cast their votes having being asked the names by the Secretary-General under the Standing Order 47(2)(c) of the Parliament as follows:—

Kitnan Selvaraj	Yes
T.K. Jayasundara	Yes

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act,— The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Proclamation made and published in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2477/47 and dated 28th February, 2026 and schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested in President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 03.03.2026 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 5.34 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.