



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 160.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, June 26, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka, Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy

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

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

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

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

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

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. (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. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation
Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways
Hon. Nishantha Jayaweera, Deputy Minister of Economic Development
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 Mulafter, Deputy Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs
Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe, Deputy Minister of Tourism
Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health
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. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala
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. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law

Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Ajith Gihan

Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha

Hon. Gayan Janaka

Hon. Kumara Jayakody

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. Sugath Wasantha de Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna

Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara

Hon. Kins Nelson

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. Lal Premanath

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

Hon. Ravindra Bandara

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen

Hon. Sudath Balagalla

Hon. E.M. Basnayaka

Hon. K. Kader Masthan

Hon. Imran Maharroof

Hon. Chanaka Madugoda
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka
Hon. Thuraiyasa Ravikaran
Hon. Mujibur Rahman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
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. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana
Hon. Jagath Vithana
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna
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. Muhammad Faizal
Hon. Riyas Farook

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament
Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

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

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Thahir Marrikkar, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education and the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media by the Committee of Selection on 25 June 2026, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 130(3) of the Parliament, to fill the vacancies occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. M. A. M. Thahir from the Memberships of these two Ministerial Consultative Committees”.

2. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the —

- (i) Annual Debt Management Report of the Public Debt Management Office for the fiscal year 2025; and
- (ii) Fiscal Strategy Statement for the year 2027, in terms of Section 11 of the Public Financial Management Act, No. 44 of 2024

and moved that the Report and the Statement be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2024 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Information Technology Management for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Performance Report of the Comptroller General's Office for the year 2025

and moved that those reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development and International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the Report on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Education Publication Department in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the Annual Report of the Kurunegala Plantations Limited for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy presented the —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat — Trincomalee for the year 2025; and
- (ii) Annual Performance and Accounts Reports of the District Secretariats — Ratnapura and Batticaloa for the year 2025

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna presented a petition dated 30.03.2026 from Ms. W.T.D. Fernando of No 117, Horana Road, Wekada, Panadura.

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

4. Sittings of the Parliament: The Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy 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 2.30 p.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.

5. Order under the Sri Lanka Electricity Act: The Minister of Energy moved,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Energy under Section 1(2) of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, No. 36 of 2024 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No.2478/41 of 05th March 2026, which was presented on 09.06.2026, be approved.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.33 a.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Presentation of papers with the special leave of the House notwithstanding the Provision of Standing Order 22(4) of Parliament: Minister of Justice and National Integration presented the —

- (i) 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 Section 82 and Section 92 of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2482/03 of 30th March 2026; and
- (ii) 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 paragraph (ee) of subsection 80(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2482/04 of 30th March 2026

and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Adjournment (Combatting the Drug Menace): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Order read for resuming the Adjourned debate on question (25th June 2026)

Question again proposed; and debate resumed.

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,— That Hon. Chanaka Madugoda do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.31 p.m. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs moved,— That Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.16 p.m. Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha 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 Tuesday, July 7th, 2026.