

රාජා පාලනය, යුක්තිය සහ සිවිල් ආරක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාව වෙත යොමු කරන ලද

අපරාධ නඩු විධාන සංගුහය(සංශෝධන) පනත් කෙටුම්පත

සම්බන්ධයෙන්

රාජා පාලනය, යුක්තිය සහ සිවිල් ආරක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාමව වාර්තාව

පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද්දේ

රාජා පාලනය, යුක්තිය සහ සිවිල් ආරක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවේ සභාපති ගරු (වෛදාා) නජිත් ඉන්දික මහතා, පා.ම. විසිනි

2025 මැයි මස 22 වැනි බුහස්පතින්දා

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ஆளுகை, நீதி மற்றும் சிவில் பாதுகாப்பு பற்றிய துறைசார் மேற்பார்வைக் குழுவிற்கு

**ஆ**ற்றுப்படுத்தப்பட்ட

குற்றவியல் நடவடிக்கைமுறைச் சட்டக்கோவை (திருத்தச்) சட்டமூலம் மீதான

ஆளுகை, நீதி மற்றும் சிவில் பாதுகாப்பு பற்றிய துறைசார் மேற்பார்வைக் குழுவின் அறிக்கை

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கௌரவ (டாக்டர்) நஜீத் இந்திக்க, பா.உ. அவர்களால்

பாராளுமன்றத்திற்குச் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டது.

2025 மே 22, வியாழக்கிழமை.

Report of the

Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection

Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) bill referred to Sectoral Oversight Committee on

**Governance, Justice and Civil Protection** 

Presented to Parliament by

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika, M.P.

Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection

Thursday, 22 May 2025

#### **Report of the Committee**

The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection, at its meeting held on 20 May 2025 in Parliament, considered the following Bill:

# • Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) bill

(Presented to the Parliament on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection)

## **Committee Members Participated**

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika, M.P.(Chair)

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam, M.P.

Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasinghe, Attorney-at-Law, M.P.

Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe, M.P.

Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi, M.P.

Hon. Major General (Rtd) G.D.Sooriyabandara, M.P.

# Non-Committee Members in attendance: (With the approval of the Hon. Chairman of the Committee)

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, M.P.

Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna, M.P.

Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney-at-Law, M.P.

Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Sirinath, M.P.

#### **Secretary to the Committee**

Mrs. Chula Herath, Assistant Director (Administration)

# Officials Participated

# **Ministry of Justice and National Integration**

Ms.Piyumanthi Peiris, Additional Secretary (Legal)

Ms. Jalashi Lokunarangoda, Assistant Secretary (Legal)

Mr. B.M.U.G.A.K. Basnayake, Commissioner of Prison (Administration)

#### **Attorney General's Department**

Mr. Sudarshana De Silva, Senior Deputy Solicitor General

Dr. (Ms.) Avanthi Perera, Deputy Solicitor General

#### **Legal Draftsman's Department**

Mrs. D.M.K.D.K. Dissanayake, Assistant Legal Draftsman

#### **Introduction**

The recommended amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure Act can be considered as a timely solution to the prevailing problems affecting the criminal justice adjudication system in Sri Lanka, and it has been proposed through these amendments to use the modern electronic technology for the benefit of all relevant parties, particularly in the transportation of prisoners to court, for the prevention of violent acts including unfortunate killings in court, and enhancement of the efficiency of the functions of criminal courts.

The proposed amendments include proposals to introduce to the law several progressive steps such as to make provisions to empower the Magistrate or the Judge of the High Court to dispense the personal attendance of a suspect or an accused, to empower the Magistrate or the Judge of the High Court to record remote testimony of a witness by contemporaneous audio-visual linkage during the inquiry or trial in court, empower the Magistrate or the Judge of the High Court in appropriate instances to direct the Registrar of the relevant Court to forward summons to the experts in the state sector, i.e. to the experts in the Department of Government Analyst and to Judicial Medical Officers, and if the parties to the case do not insist on the personal attendance of such expert witness and the

presiding judge deems it appropriate, to assume that the facts contained in a report submitted through electronic means shall be admissible in evidence of such facts without calling for evidence of such expert.

## **Observations of the Committee**

- 1. That, only the witnesses are covered under the measures taken by the proposed amendments to verify that the summons are served through a contemporaneous audio-visual linkage.
- 2.Also, in terms of the existing provisions of this Act, in an e-mail message sent to an expert witnesses living abroad, a verification shall be made for the receipt of the summons, and that the judge will commence the examination of evidence only after verifying that all parties have received the summons.
- 3. That this will facilitate obtaining of evidence from witnesses living abroad and will enable the obtaining of evidence from parties willing to cooperate in the delivery of justice in a case.

In addition, the officials of the Ministry of Justice and National Integration who attended the meeting of the Committee submitted to the Committee the proposals compiled by them for consideration at the Committee stage, and the Committee also paid their attention to the said proposals and agreed that they were of positive nature.

# **Decision of the Committee**

After deliberation, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection agreed to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill and decided that the Report of the Committee thereon be presented to Parliament by the Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika, Chair of the Committee, on Thursday, 22 May 2025.