



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 19.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies,
Economic Affairs, Resettlement & Rehabilitation, Northern Province
Development, Vocational Training & Skills Development and Youth Affairs

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial
Councils & Local Government

Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development, Wildlife and Christian
Religious Affairs

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms and
Chief Government Whip

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy
Development and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone
Development

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration &
Disaster Management

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Resettlement of
Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development

Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Ports & Shipping and Southern Development

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation

Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International
Trade

Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum
Resources Development

Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock
Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Non Cabinet Minister of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology

Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan, Non Cabinet Minister of Special Area Development

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, Non Cabinet Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, Non Cabinet Minister of Science, Technology & Research

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, State Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala, State Minister of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare, State Minister of Tourism Development, Wildlife & Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Faizal Cassim, State Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Power & Renewable Energy

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, State Minister of Social Empowerment

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development

Hon. Vadivel Suresh, State Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, State Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. H. M. M. Harees, State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, Deputy Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Deputy Minister of Industry & Commerce

Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training

Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff, Deputy Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, Deputy Minister of Environment

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake

Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. S. B. Nawinne
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. The Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoo
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne

Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. D. M. Swaminathan
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the—

- (i) Second Instalment – Part XXVII, Third Instalment – Part IX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2015; and
- (ii) Second Instalment – Parts II, III and IV, Third Instalment – Part III, Eighth Instalment – Part II and Tenth Instalment – Parts XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXVII, XXVIII and XXIX of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2017

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Sri Lanka Coastal Zone and Coastal Resource Management Plan – 2018 made by the Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment under Section 12(1) of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act, No. 57 of 1981 which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2072/58 of 25th May 2018 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Building for the years 2015 and 2016 and moved these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. S. Shritharan on behalf of Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Annual Reports of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016;
- (ii) Performance Reports and Annual Accounts of the Public Service Commission for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission for the years 2015 and 2016;
- (iv) Annual Reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016;

- (v) Annual Performance Reports and Accounts of the Ministry of Public Administration and Management for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- (vi) Annual Performance Reports and Accounts of the Department of Pensions for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) for the years 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016;
- (viii) Annual Performance Reports of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (ix) Performance Reports of the Department of Immigration and Emigration for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (x) Performance Reports of the Department of Registration of Persons for the years 2016 and 2017;
- (xi) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Government Printing for the year 2017;
- (xii) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Chief Government Whip of Parliament for the year 2017;
- (xiii) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Sri Lanka Foundation for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015; and
- (xiv) Annual Performance Reports of the Leader of the Opposition of Parliament for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran on behalf of Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development presented the Report of the said Committee on,

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Regional Development for the year 2017;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Employees' Trust Fund Board for the year 2016;
- (iv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. for the year 2015;
- (v) Annual Report of the National Savings Bank for the year 2016;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Regional Development Bank for the year 2016;
- (vii) Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantation Ltd for the year 2015; and
- (viii) Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2016

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Dilan Perera presented a petition dated 30.08.2018 from Mrs. M. W. Nandana Kumarihamy of No. 23/1 F, Ratwatta Mawatha, Badulla.
- (2) Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila presented a petition dated 10.11.2017 from Mr. S. R. S. M. Samarakkody of No. 59, Borella Road, Depanama, Pannipitiya.
- (3) Hon. S. Premarathna presented a petition dated 13.08.2018 from Mrs. P. W. I. T. Kumarihamy of No. 33, 2nd Lane, Nuwarawatta, Hingurakgoda.

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

4. Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,— That Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.11 p.m. Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Defence moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.27 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The Minister of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial Councils & Local Government moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.48 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna took the Chair.)

(At 6.02 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out lines 8 to 11(both inclusive), in page 1 and insert,—

“(1) in subsection (1) of that section by the substitution, for all the words commencing from “shall consist of five members”, to “to be Chairman of the Board.” of the following:-

“shall consist of eleven members appointed by the Minister.””;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms proposed an another amendment to leave out lines 15 to 21(both inclusive), in page 1 and insert,—

“(2) The Board shall consist of the following:-

(a) seven members consisting of persons-

(i) who hold or have held a post as a Judge of the High Court or as a District Judge; or

(ii) who have not less than fifteen years’ professional experience as an attorney-at-law;

(b) four members consisting of persons-

(i) who have not less than ten years’ professional experience as an attorney-at-law;

(ii) who hold or have held a post of Class I officer in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service or in an All Island Service; or

(iii) who have experience in the fields of trade and commerce.”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms proposed an another amendment to leave out lines 1 to 11(both inclusive), in page 2 and substitute the following new subsection:-

“(3) The Minister shall appoint a member appointed under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) to be the Chairman of the Board.”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

5. Adjournment : (Rehabilitation of Canals used by Fishing Vessels and Solutions to Land Issues in Mannar District) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

The Minister of Justice & Prison Reforms moved,— That Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.18 p.m. Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.12 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2019.