



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 14.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, January 08, 2019 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairperson 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. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Power, Energy and Business Development

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

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

Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Social
Empowerment

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure &
Community Development

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Buddhasasana & Wayamba
Development

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication, Foreign Employment and
Sports

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. Patali Champika Ranawaka**, Minister of Megapolis & Western Development
- Hon. Malik Samarawickrama**, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
- Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne**, Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine
- 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 Public Distribution and Economic Reforms
- Hon. Ajith P. Perera**, Non Cabinet Minister of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology
- 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. Faizal Cassim**, State Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine
- Hon. Lucky Jayawardana**, State Minister of City Planning & Water Supply
- Hon. Niroschan 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. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran**, State Minister of Education
- Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake**, State Minister of Highways & Road Development
- 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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha, Deputy Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
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. Duneshe Gankanda
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Padma Udayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyanika Jayaratne
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. S. B. Nawinne
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
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. Arundika Fernando
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Indika Bandaranayake
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage

Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vasantha Senanayake
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa
Hon. D. M. Swaminathan
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Official Oath or Affirmation by new member : Hon. Kuda Vidanalage Shantha Bandara, Member of Parliament, made and subscribed the Affirmation required by Law and signed the **Book** at the **Table**.

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:-

I

“ I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. (Dr.) M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, Member of Parliament, has tendered his letter of resignation from his Membership of Parliament to the Secretary-General of Parliament. The Letter of Resignation will now be read out by the Acting Secretary-General of Parliament.”

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මෙයට - විශ්වාසී, *To be effective from today (04/01/2019)*

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(Dr. M.L.A.M. Hizbullah)

II

“The Speaker making an announcement on 18th December 2018 stated that recognizing the parliamentary group leader of the political party or the independent group that claims the largest number of Members of Parliament among the recognized political parties sitting in the opposition is the age old Parliamentary tradition. Accordingly, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Member of Parliament and the Parliamentary group leader of the United People’s Freedom Alliance, the party that claims the largest number of Members of Parliament sitting in the opposition, was recognized as the Leader of the Opposition.

Further, the General Secretary of the United People’s Freedom Alliance by his letter dated 18.12.2018 has informed the Speaker that the Alliance has decided to propose Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa for the post of Leader of the Opposition.

Pursuant to the above announcement of the Speaker and the special statement made by the leader of the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi (party), Hon R. Sampanthan in Parliament on Wednesday, the 19th of December 2018, I wish to present to this House the decision of the Speaker in regard to various submissions made by the Hon. Members of Parliament of both sides of the well of Parliament in regard to the recognition of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

The summarized essence of the matters raised in the House was based on the provisions of Article 99 (13) (a) of the Constitution which states ‘Where a member of Parliament ceases, by resignation, expulsion or otherwise, to be a member of a recognized political party or independent group on whose nomination paper (hereinafter referred to as the “relevant nomination paper”) his name appeared at the time of his becoming such Member of Parliament, his seat shall become vacant upon the expiration of a period of one month from the date his ceasing to be such member.’

The General Secretary of the United People’s Freedom Alliance, through his letter dated 19.12.2018 had informed the Speaker that all Members of Parliament elected as per the Gazette Notification of the Chairman of the Election Commission (except the Member of Parliament whose seat was vacated on a court order) continue to function as Members of Parliament of the United People’s Freedom Alliance.

Having extensively studied the foregoing matters, the Speaker has decided that making decisions as regards the vacation of a seat of a Member of Parliament by means of the enforcement of the law in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution or the vacation of his seat due to the expulsion from the party or due to resignation are, as per the provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Parliament, matters that are beyond the purview of the Speaker. Furthermore, the Hon. Speaker emphasizes that the power to adjudicate the abovementioned matters does fall under the functions of the Judiciary.

In addition, a group of Members of Parliament have handed over a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to look into this matter.

The Speaker, having looked into the abovementioned motion, has informed that accepting a motion which proposes a group of majority Parliamentarians looking into the internal workings of a group which represents a minority in Parliament would be against and in violation of Parliamentary tradition and democratic principles.”

III

“ I wish to inform Parliament that in terms of the Standing Order 140 of the Parliament, Hon. Speaker has nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament:—

Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
 Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
 Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
 Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
 Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
 Hon. Velu Kumar
 Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
 Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
 Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
 Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
 Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
 Hon. Hesha Withanage
 Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi ”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the Performance Reports of the Election Commission for the First quarter (01.01.2018-31.03.2018) and for the Second quarter (01.04.2018-30.06.2018) of 2018 in terms of Article 41B (6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Ayurveda Medical Council for the year 2015; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the year 2016

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Imports and Exports for the year 2017; and
- (ii) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Department of Commerce for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item Nos. 1 to 5 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sittings from the provisions of the Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Committee of Selection (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 114 of the Parliament, the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair and Seventeen (17) Members which shall include the leaders of the political parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament to serve in the current Session.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Committee of Selection (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That in terms of the motion agreed to by Parliament this day and in addition to the Members approved by Parliament on 23rd November, 2018, the undermentioned Five (05) Members do serve in the Committee of Selection during the current Session:—

Hon. John Amaratunga

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera

Hon. Sajith Premadasa

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale

Hon. Douglas Devananda

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Committee on Parliamentary Business: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 115 of the Parliament, the Committee on Parliamentary Business shall consist of the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and Thirteen (13) other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Committee on Public Finance: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 121 of the Parliament, the Committee on Public Finance shall consist of Thirteen (13) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Diplomatic Privileges Act: The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Section 4 of the Diplomatic Privileges Act, No. 9 of 1996 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2074/13 of 05th June 2018, which were presented on 10.08.2018, be approved.

(At 3.09 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Hesha Withanage do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.17 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.32 p.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment : (Wage Problem of Plantation Workers): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and debated.

The Minister of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Social Empowerment moved,— That Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.29 p.m. Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.27 p.m. adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 09, 2019.