



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 61.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 1.00 p. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

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 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. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Integration, Official Languages, Social
Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs

Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment

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

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Minister of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs

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, Co-operative Development and Vocational Training & Skills 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. Mangala Samaraweera**, Minister of Finance
- Hon. Rauff Hakeem**, Minister of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education
- 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. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan**, Non Cabinet Minister of Special Areas Development
- Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene**, Non Cabinet Minister of Mass Media and State Minister of Defence
- Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera**, Non Cabinet Minister of Labour & 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. Lucky Jayawardana**, State Minister of City Planning & Water Supply
- Hon. Niroshan Perera**, State Minister of National Policies & 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. Ajith Mannapperuma, State Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, State Minister of Highways & Road Development

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. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment

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

Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff, Deputy Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

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. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Dunes Gankanda

Hon. Chandima Gamage

Hon. Piyasena Gamage

Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
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. Lakshman Wasantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha

Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Palitha Range 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 Maharoof
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Faiszer Musthapha
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
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 Wijesekara

Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Hesha Withanage
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. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
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

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. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:-

“I wish to inform that I have endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled “Coconut Development (Amendment)” on the 14th of May 2019 in terms of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Speaker presented the Progress Report of the Public Services Commission for the Third quarter of 2018 (01.07.2018 - 30.09.2018) in terms of Articles 41B (6) and 55(5) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Regulations made by the President under Section 27 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 48 of 1979 read with the Provisions of the Constitution and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2123/3 of 13th May 2019 and moved that these Regulations be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Order made by the President under regulation 75(1) of the Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions and Powers) Regulations No. 1 of 2019 and Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40) published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2120/5 of 22nd April 2019 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2123/2 of 13th May 2019; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the President under Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2123/4 of 13th May 2019

Ordered that the said Order and Regulations do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of External Resources for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance and Mass Media under Section 112 read with Section 16 of the Regulation of Insurance Industry Act, No. 43 of 2000 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2104/9 of 31st December 2018

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

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the University of Ruhuna for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Institute of Biochemical, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology - University of Colombo for the year 2017;
- (iii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of English - The Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2017;

- (iv) Annual Report of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2017; and
- (v) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2017 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on Ministry of Highways & Road Development and Petroleum Resources Development in the First Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the period from 06.06.2017 to 08.12.2017 which was presented to Parliament on 21.02.2019 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on Disaster Management Section of the Ministry of Public Administration & Disaster Management in the First Report of the Committee on Public Accounts for the period from 06.06.2017 to 08.12.2017 which was presented to Parliament on 21.02.2019 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs for the year 2018 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Manpower & Employment for the year 2016; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 2017

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage presented the Report of the said Committee on, “Regulations under the Convention Against Doping in Sports Act, No. 33 of 2013” which were referred to the said Committee.

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

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma presented a petition dated 21.01.2019 from Mr. I.A.N.J. Perera of No.179/2, Akarawita, Gampaha.
- (2) Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri presented a petition dated 06.01.2019 from Mr. A.R.W.M.M.R. Amarakoon of “Amarakoon Niwasa”, Wangiya Kumbura, Boralanda.

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

5. Motions for Leave of Absence : The Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena seconded by Hon. C. B. Rathnayake moved,— That the Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera, Member of Parliament for Matara Electoral District be granted leave under the Article 66(f) of the Constitution, to be absent from the Sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from March 12, 2019.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Revival of Underperforming Enterprises or Underutilized Assets (Repeal) : The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development presented a Bill,— Bill to repeal the Revival of Underperforming Enterprises or Underutilized Assets Act, No. 43 of 2011.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, June 04, 2019 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

7. Institute of Valuers of Sri Lanka (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented a Bill,— Bill to amend the Institute of Valuers of Sri Lanka Law, No. 33 of 1975.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, June 04, 2019 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

8. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of Sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 6.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2084/18 of 14th August 2018, which was presented on 29.03.2019, be approved.

(At 2.32 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena seconded by Hon. Bimal Rathnayake moved,—
That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.34 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

The Minister of Tourism Development, Wildlife and Christian Religious Affairs
moved,—That Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.04 p.m. Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe took the Chair.)

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne seconded by Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.38 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama took the Chair.)

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,—That
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.08 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

(At 5.40 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 6.00 p.m. adjourned until 1.00
p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.