



(Eighth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 75.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 10.30 a. 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 and Youth Affairs

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

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

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

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 and Rural Economic Affairs

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. 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, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva**, Non Cabinet Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution
- 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. Lucky Jayawardana**, State Minister of City Planning & Water Supply
- Hon. A. D. Premadasa**, State Minister of Power & Renewable Energy
- Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran**, State Minister of Education
- Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma**, State Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment
- Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**, State Minister of Finance
- Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi**, State Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development
- Hon. Vadivel Suresh**, State Minister of Plantation Industries
- Hon. Vasantha Senanayake**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage**, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
- Hon. Edward Gunasekara**, Deputy Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms
- Hon. Buddhika Pathirana**, Deputy Minister of Industry & Commerce
- Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana**, Deputy Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training
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Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
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. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara 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. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha
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. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana

Hon. Imran Maharoof
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 Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
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. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.**1. Presentation of Papers :** (1) The Deputy Speaker presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Finance Commission for the First quarter of 2019 (01.01.2019 - 31.03.2019) in terms of Article 41B(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and
- (ii) Progress Report of the Public Services Commission for the First quarter of 2019 (01.01.2019 - 31.03.2019) in terms of Articles 41B(6) and 55(5) 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 Delimitation Commission for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Civil Security Department for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Trincomalee for the year 2018;
- (ii) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Gampaha for the year 2018; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2016

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Reports of the National Authority on Tobacco & Alcohol for the years 2016 and 2017; and
- (iii) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2016

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. Nihal Galappaththi, Member of the Committee 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 Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Galle for the year 2017;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Kegalle for the year 2017;
- (iii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Ampara for the year 2017;
- (iv) Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Matara for the year 2017;
- (v) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Polonnaruwa for the year 2017;
- (vi) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the District Secretariat - Anuradhapura for the year 2017;
- (vii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Hambantota for the year 2017;
- (viii) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Ratnapura for the year 2017;
- (ix) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Nuwara Eliya for the year 2017;
- (x) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Gampaha for the year 2017;
- (xi) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Vavuniya for the year 2017;
- (xii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Puttalam for the year 2017;
- (xiii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Badulla for the year 2017;
- (xiv) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Moneragala for the year 2017;
- (xv) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Jaffna for the year 2017;

- (xvi) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Kalutara for the year 2017;
- (xvii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Mannar for the year 2017;
- (xviii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Kandy for the year 2017;
- (xix) Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the District Secretariat - Killinochchi for the year 2017;
- (xx) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Mullaitivu for the year 2017;
- (xxi) Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Kurunegala for the year 2017;
- (xxii) Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Trincomalee for the year 2017;
- (xxiii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Batticaloa for the year 2017;
- (xxiv) Annual Performance and Financial Report of the District Secretariat - Colombo for the year 2017;
- (xxv) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat - Matale for the year 2017;
- (xxvi) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2017; and
- (xxvii) Performance Report and Accounts of the Registrar General's Department for the year 2017

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Vote of No Confidence in Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government : Hon. Anura Dissanayaka seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa moved,—

Whereas despite the fact that proper information had been made available regarding suicide terrorist attacks that occurred in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa areas on Easter Sunday which fell on 21st April 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the government, whose action amount to criminal negligence or omission by the commission or omission of acts as specified below as a result of which over 250 persons including Sri Lankan citizens have been killed, nearly 500 more have been wounded and properties have been damaged:

- (a) Failure to take any action despite the knowledge that certain sections of Sri Lankans had maintained various relationships with the international Islamic extremist organization ISIS and had been engaged in various activities since 2014 as has been stated by the Prime Minister on 08.05.2019 in Parliament;

- (b) Failure to take action although the Muslim community itself had informed the government and relevant institutions responsible that various Islamic religious extremist organizations are functioning within the Muslim society;
- (c) Failure to apprehend or properly enforce the law against Saharan Hashim who killed himself by exploding a bomb on the 21st April 2019 in relation to threats and attacks unleashed on the people living in Kaththankudy area at various instances and A. L. M. Niyaz who killed himself by exploding a bomb in Saindamarudu on 26th April 2019, despite warrants being issued against them by the court while the perpetrators were engaging in various activities in Kaththankudy area in public;
- (d) Despite the Sri Lanka Muslim Council informing the National Intelligence wing on the 28th December 2018 that a group led by Saharan Hashim was involved in damaging Buddha statues in Mawanella on the 24th of December 2018 and despite a few people having being taken into custody in suspicion of this attack a Minister of the Government himself has stated that there were interventions obstructing the continuation of those investigations;
- (e) Failure to take legal and security measures in relation to various activities of Islamic extremist organizations well before these attacks took place and particularly about the involvement of a significant number of Sri Lankans with the ISIS organization and doing various activities with it;
- (f) The neglect of the fundamental responsibilities the Hon. Prime Minister is expected to fulfil to the people of the country, by the Hon. Prime Minister who is a member of the Security Council, not participating at the sessions of the Security Council;
- (g) Notwithstanding specific information provided by foreign intelligence services that suicide bomb attacks would be carried out in Sri Lanka including the persons involved, their telephone numbers and National Identity Card numbers, targeting Catholic churches and hotels, neglecting to act upon such information;

Moreover, neglecting to act, despite specific warnings regarding these attacks made again by foreign intelligence services prior to such attacks on 21.04.2019;

- (h) Failing to act upon, notwithstanding prior information being provided to;

- Director/ Ministerial Security Division
- Director/ Judicial Security Division
- Director/ Former Presidents' Security Division
- Acting Director/ Diplomatic Security Division (iv)
- Acting Director/ Former Presidents' Security Division (v)

through letter No. DIG/SPR/126/4.19 titled "Information of an alleged plan attack" dated 11.04.2019 by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Priyalal Dassanayake in charge of Special Protection Range stating that planned suicide attacks would be launched targeting specific locations i.e. "Drawing special attention to matters included in the report provided by the State Intelligence Service as regards information to the effect that a suicide attack had been planned in the country by Mohammed Zahran, the leader of the National Thowheeth Jamath";

and whereas, as per the aforesaid matters, the terrorist attack carried out on 21.04.2019 targeting civilians could have essentially been prevented or damage could have been minimized;

- (i) Whereas the Prime Minister and the Ministers have acted in such a way to create confusion and insecurity in relation to ordinary public life and public security subsequent to the series of attacks carried out on 21.04.2019 by not accepting the responsibility for the said series of attacks but trying to put the blame on other parties, with the Ministers of the government making irresponsible, contradictory and false statements;
- (j) Whereas certain Ministers of the government have acted to obstruct the investigation process regarding the suspects arrested in relation to the Easter Sunday attack on 21.04.2019 and to obstruct or prevent law enforcement in relation to the said crimes;
- (k) Whereas the government has omitted to fulfill its duties and obligations to the people by failing to act with due vigilance and responsibility and by failing to follow the proper procedure to suppress such incidents to prevent the extremist violent actions, such as homicides, damages to property and conflicts among people that occurred in Gampaha and the North Western Province on 13.05.2019 despite the possession of comprehensive set of laws to suppress the recurrence of a similar series of attacks or perpetration of crimes of any other form subsequent to the series of terrorist attacks that took place on 21.04.2019 and failed to prevent such attacks despite the unrest among different communities and the tendency to carry out attacks that prevailed in the country subsequent to the series of attacks on 21.04.2019;
- (l) Whereas it has been unable to restore the normal economic processes of the country even after the lapse of a period of one month since the Easter Sunday attack, and it has failed to bring the school and university systems in the country back to normalcy, and it has failed to restore the functioning of public and private sectors, and where as it has neglected its duties and responsibilities as a government towards the citizens of this country; and

Whereas it has acted creating room for foreign countries to interfere in internal affairs of the country on the grounds of the anarchic situation that has been created in the country consequent to its failure to prevent the serial attacks on 21.04.2019 and due to its failure to restore the security situation and the civil life of the country back normalcy;

That this Parliament resolves that it has further lost confidence in Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.”

(At 1.20 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation moved,— That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.27 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation moved,— That Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.34 p.m. Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.32 p.m. Hon. Hesha Withanage took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.34 p.m. Hon. Bimal Rathnayake took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Enterprise, Kandyan Heritage and Kandy Development moved,—That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

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

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 5.40 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019.