



(Ninth Parliament - First Session)

No. 1.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Lands

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security,
Home Affairs and Disaster Management

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport
Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development,
Vocational Education, Research and Innovation

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing
Development and Consumer Protection

Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State
Enterprise Reforms

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Canals and Common Infrastructure
Development in Settlements in Mahaweli Zones

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast
Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Aviation and Export Zones Development

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and
Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation
Development related to Rural Paddy Fields

Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and
Market Diversification

Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana, State Minister of Production, Supply and
Regulation of Pharmaceuticals

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel
Products

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, State Minister of Estate Housing & Community
Infrastructure

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva, State Minister of Women and Child Development,
Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, State Minister of Production and Supply of
Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use

Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power
Generation Projects Development

- Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka**, State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Reforestation and Forest Resource Development
- Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development
- Hon. Arundika Fernando**, State Minister of Coconut, Kithul, Palmyrah and Rubber Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**, State Minister of Prison Reforms & Prisoners' Rehabilitation
- Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Regional Co-operation
- Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Bhikkhu Education, Piriven and Buddhist Universities
- Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industrial Promotion
- Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe**, State Minister of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
- Hon. Lohan Rathwaththe**, State Minister of Gem & Jewellery related Industries
- Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture
- Hon. Nimal Lanza**, State Minister of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure
- Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
- Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka**, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion
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- Hon. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment, Business Development and Underutilized State Resources Development
- Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Material Industries

Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea Estate Related Crops, Tea Factory Modernization and Tea Export Promotion

Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Tiran Alles

Hon. Naseer Ahamed

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam

Hon. Faizal Cassim

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

Hon. Jagath Kumara

Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardhana
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. Sujith Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathna
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse

Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C. V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Senewirathna
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna Herath**Hon. Vijitha Herath****Hon. Samanpriya Herath****Hon. Marjan Faleel****Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka**

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

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

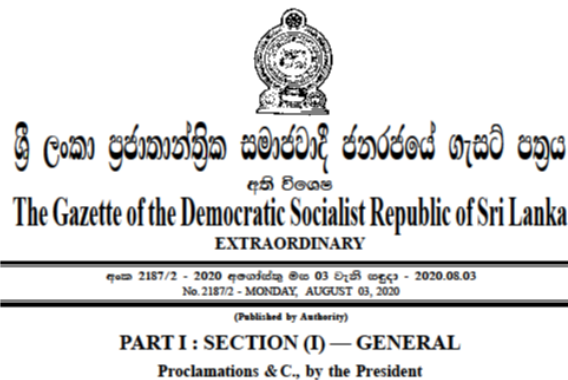
Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

1. Parliament met pursuant to the Proclamations of the President; The Mace was laid below the Table.

2. The Secretary - General of Parliament read the following Proclamations of the President by which the meeting was summoned :—

I



My No. : PS/CSA/00/1/2/3.

A PROCLAMATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

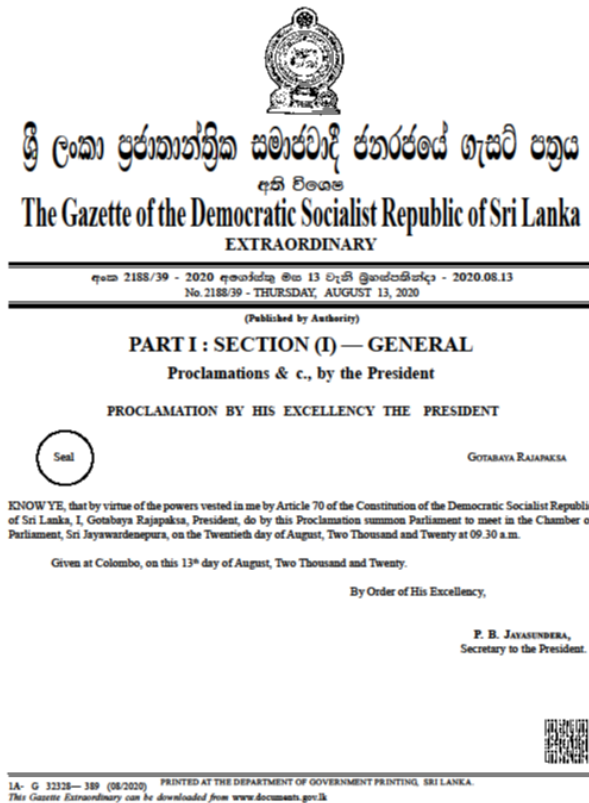


GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

WHEREAS, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Article 70 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to be read with Sub-paragraph (c) of Paragraph (2) of Article 33 of the said Constitution and Section 10 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, a Proclamation was published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2165/8 dated 02nd March, 2020, *inter alia* dissolving the Parliament with effect from midnight of 02nd March, 2020, fixing the date for the Election of Members of Parliament to be the 25th day of April, 2020 and fixing the date for the new Parliament to meet to be the 14th day of May, 2020.

And whereas, consequent to Covid-19 Pandemic, the Election Commission acting in terms of Section 24(3) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, by *Gazette Notification* No. 2179/17 dated 10th June, 2020, notified that the Election for electing the Members of Parliament will be held on 05th of August, 2020.





3. Election of a Speaker : Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena addressing himself to the Secretary - General of Parliament (stood up from his seat, pointed to him and then sat down) proposed that Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana (Member of Parliament for the Matara Electoral District) be the Speaker of Parliament and do take the Chair and the motion was seconded by Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara.

No other name being proposed, the Secretary - General of Parliament declared that Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana was duly elected as the Speaker.

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, being escorted to the Chair from his seat by Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena and Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, stood on the upper step and expressed his sincerest acknowledgment to Parliament for the great honour which Parliament had been pleased to confer upon him.

Then the Mace, which was laid below the **Table**, was placed upon the **Table**.

4. Official Oath or Affirmation : The Speaker informed the House that their first duty was to take the Oath or make the Affirmation and sign the Members' Roll required by Law.

First, the Speaker alone being stood up on the upper step of the stairs to the Chair, made the affirmation and signed the Members' Roll.

The following Members took the Oath or made the Affirmation required by law and signed the Members' Roll:—

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of Urban Development & Housing

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana, Minister of Ports & Shipping

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Power

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Minister of Energy

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena, Minister of Lands

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Labour

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education

Hon. Johnston Fernando, Minister of Highways

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Tourism

Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Youth & Sports

Hon. Gamini Lokuge, Minister of Transport

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Minister of Health

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Justice

- Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry
- Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
- Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Co-operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection
- Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms
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- Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
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- Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development related to Rural Paddy Fields
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- Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Tiran Alles
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
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Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
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Hon. Palani Thigambaram
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Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. Sujith Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Harin Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Susil Premajayantha
Hon. Sajith Premadasa

Hon. Uddika Premarathna
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
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Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C. V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
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Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Senewirathna
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Congratulatory speeches on the appointment of the Speaker were delivered by the Prime Minister Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan, Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Hon. Mano Ganesan, Hon. Douglas Devananda, Hon. C. V. Wigneswaran, Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena, Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah, Hon. Anura Dissanayaka, Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan, Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Hon. Udaya Gammanpila, Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe and Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam.

A reply speech was delivered by the Speaker.

5. Election of the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees :

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera seconded by Hon. Nimal Lanza proposed the name of Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya (Member of Parliament for the Kegalle Electoral District) for the election as the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees.

No other name being proposed, the Speaker declared that Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya was duly elected as the Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees.

6. Election of the Deputy Chairperson of Committees :

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva seconded by Hon. Duminda Dissanayake proposed the name of Hon. Angajan Ramanathan (Member of Parliament for Jaffna Electoral District) for the election as the Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

No other name being proposed, the Speaker declared that Hon. Angajan Ramanathan was duly elected as the Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

7. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message from the President :—

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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. 1/2/3

August 17, 2020

Honourable Speaker of the 9th Parliament
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

First Meeting of the Ninth Parliament of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

By virtue of the rights and the powers vested in me under Articles 32(4) and 33 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I wish to inform you that I will be presiding at the first ceremonial sitting of the Ninth Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka scheduled to be held on the Twentieth of August, 2020 at 03.00 p.m. and making the statement of Government Policy.

I am enclosing a copy of the Gazette Notification summoning Parliament under Article 70 of the Constitution, for your information.

Yours faithfully,

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

8. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker read the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, M.P., as the Leader of the House of Parliament and the Hon. Johnston Fernando, M.P., as the Chief Government Whip have been appointed for the Ninth new Parliament.”

II

“I wish to inform this House that the Hon. Sajith Premadasa, M.P. has been recognized by me as the Leader of the Opposition in the Ninth new Parliament.”

Suspension of Sitting

At 10.38 a.m.

The Sitting was suspended by the Speaker until the address to Parliament by His Excellency the President at 3.00 p.m.

At 3.00 p.m.

9. Parliament re-assembled.

10. His Excellency the President addressed Parliament in terms of Articles 32(4) and 33 of the Constitution.

11. 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 Friday, August 21, 2020 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 3.35 p.m. adjourned until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, August 21, 2020 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.