



(Ninth Parliament - Second Session)

No. 47.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Acting President, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Dhammika Perera, Minister of Investment Promotion

Hon. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism and Lands

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Chief Government Whip

Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Minister of Irrigation and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health and Minister of Water Supply

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

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

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) 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. Lalith Varna 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. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva

Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Palani Thigambaram

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. Duminda Dissanayake

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake

Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena

Hon. H. Nandasena

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. Asanka Navarathna

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Sanath Nishantha

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. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam

Hon. Arundika Fernando

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
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. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Jayarathna Herath
Hon. D. B. Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

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:—

“Honourable Members, First of all, I would like to draw your special attention to the fact that today's parliamentary session will be remembered as a historic day for all of us as people's representatives elected to the legislature. At this special juncture, not only all of us as Members of Parliament, but also our entire country and the whole world are undoubtedly paying more attention than usual to what is happening in Parliament today.

In terms of Article 40 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Standing Order 7 of the Parliament, in the event of the election of a President, the Parliament shall hold a secret ballot using ballot papers following the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981 setting out procedure for today, thus, I emphatically state that all the Members of Parliament should stay in their seats with great restraint and act as an exemplary Parliament until all the business is successfully completed.

Honourable Members, in accordance with the Constitution, it is requested to properly understand the secret ballot and not to show your vote and ballot paper to anyone else, to give maximum support till the end without hindrance in accordance with the law, and to refrain from bringing any mobile phone to the polling station. It must also be said that disclosing your vote or ballot paper or taking a photo of your ballot paper using your mobile phone is also against the pledge you gave before Parliament under Article 63 of the Constitution. Also, I further inform that there is no opportunity in the House to debate or raise questions of rules or question in any other way in relation to the procedure of polling. I intend to draw the attention of all of you, both the Government and the Opposition, that you should behave in Parliament today in accordance with the Constitution, Standing Orders and the provisions of the relevant Act.

Finally, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Act, I request that the Secretary-General of Parliament as the returning officer conducts the polling process today in the election of the succeeding President by Parliament, so that you are hereby requested to provide fullest cooperation by adhering to the instructions and directions that will be given by the Secretary-General of Parliament.

I would also like to inform this House that the Secretary-General of Parliament, as the returning officer, will call the necessary staff members to the Chamber to conduct the polling process today.

Voting Procedure for Election of the President will be explained by the Secretary-General of Parliament now.”

Accordingly, the Secretary-General of Parliament made the following announcement:—

“Honourable Members, I would like to draw your kind attention to a few important matters before commencing the voting for the election of a certain Member of Parliament from among the Members who have submitted their nominations for the currently vacant office of President.

Before voting commences, the empty ballot box will be shown to the Members and locked and sealed by me.

When voting commences, the name of each Member including the Honorable Speaker will be called out in the order of the names of the division list prepared according to the Standing Orders of the Parliament by the Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament who was nominated by me.

When the Member's name is called, I shall place the signature on the back of the ballot paper with my initials in the presence of the Member and the ballot paper will be given to the relevant Member.

The Member should then proceed to the cubicle provided in the Chamber and mark his/her ballot paper correctly.

Honourable Members, it is mandatory to mark the number '1' in the square opposite the name of the preferred candidate in the ballot paper. I mention that if any mark other than the number 1, a cross or a right mark or any other mark is applied, the ballot paper will become an invalid ballot paper.

In addition, the numbers 2, 3 etc. can be marked in the ballot paper in the order of preference of the respective Member in the square opposite the name of the other candidates.

Honourable Members, I would also like to inform you as per the provisions of the Act on how a ballot paper marked by a Member shall be invalid.

A ballot paper on which anything has been written or marked by which the Member can be identified;

A ballot paper which does not bare my short signature as Returning Officer;

A ballot paper on which the figure '1' is not marked;

A ballot paper on which the figure '1' is marked opposite the name of more than one candidate; and

A ballot paper which is unmarked or void for uncertainty.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the ballot paper will be canceled in the above cases.

Accordingly, I would like to remind you once again that the number '1' is mandatory on the ballot paper and you may mark the numbers 2, 3 etc. in the order of your preference, and in addition, I would like to emphasize that you should not mark or write anything else on the ballot paper.

If so, Honourable Members, we will start the voting by following the instructions given to you as the returning officer.

At the time of voting, I kindly request you to maintain silence in the Chamber and give your fullest cooperation in counting the votes. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that since this ballot is completely a secret ballot conducted under the Constitution and relevant laws, displaying the ballot paper or taking photos of the ballot paper is an offense in violation of the Constitution.

Then, Honourable members, let's start the voting now. Traditionally, the quorum bell will now be rung for 5 minutes to summon the members to the Chamber."

2. Holding of the Election to elect the President in terms of the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981.

In terms of the provisions of the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981, the House engaged in holding the election for the purpose of election of a President.

Upon counting of votes, the Secretary-General of Parliament declared the following result of the election held using the ballot papers:—

“In terms of the provisions of the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981, the counting of votes has been completed in relation to the election conducted by Parliament for the election of a President. Accordingly, the results of the poll is now declared by me.”

Total number of votes cast	223
Number of abstentions	2
Number of valid votes cast	219
Number of rejected votes	4

The respective number of votes received by the three candidates who competed for the office of President are as follows:—

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma	The number of votes received - 82
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe	The number of votes received - 134
Hon. Anura Dissanayake	The number of votes received - 3

The Secretary-General of Parliament declared that Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe has been duly elected by Parliament by an absolute majority as the Eighth Executive President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in terms of the provisions of the Presidential Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1981.

3. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the Parliament shall sit on Wednesday, July 27th, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 19th January 2022, the hours of sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, July 27th, 2022 shall be 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.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.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27th, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 1.36 p.m. adjourned by the Speaker until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.