



*(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)*

No. 14.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

### PRESENT :

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

**Hon. Angajan Ramanathan**, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

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**Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena**, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,  
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

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

**Hon. Naseer Ahamed**, Minister of Environment

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

**Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva**, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

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

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

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

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

**Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera**, Minister of Power and Energy

**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola**, State Minister of Health

**Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**, State Minister of Transport

**Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe**, State Minister of Women and Child  
Affairs

**Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**, State Minister of Education

**Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**, State Minister of Tourism

**Hon. Siripala Gamalath**, State Minister of Highways

**Hon. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan**, State Minister of Rural Road Development  
**Hon. D. V. Chanaka**, State Minister of Power and Energy  
**Hon. Sisira Jayakody**, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine  
**Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs  
**Hon. Premalal Jayasekara**, State Minister of Ports and Aviation  
**Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon**, State Minister of Defence  
**Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake**, State Minister of Primary Industries  
**Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Fisheries  
**Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva**, State Minister of Agriculture  
**Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka**, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs  
**Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Water Supply  
**Hon. Anupa Pasqual**, State Minister of Social Empowerment  
**Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion  
**Hon. Ashoka Priyantha**, State Minister of Home Affairs  
**Hon. Shantha Bandara**, State Minister of Mass Media  
**Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Hon. K. Kader Masthan**, State Minister of Rural Economy  
**Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera**, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development  
**Hon. Lohan Ratwatte**, State Minister of Plantation Industries  
**Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan**, State Minister of Higher Education  
**Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa**, State Minister of Irrigation  
**Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura**, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government  
**Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage**, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing  
**Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Trade  
**Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya**, State Minister of Finance  
**Hon. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Finance  
**Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Power and Energy  
**Hon. Kanaka Herath**, State Minister of Technology  
**Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock Development

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**Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan**  
**Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala**  
**Hon. Sampath Athukorala**  
**Hon. Tissa Attanayake**  
**Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana**

**Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**  
**Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**  
**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. 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. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**  
**Hon. Velu Kumar**  
**Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**  
**Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda**  
**Hon. Udaya Gammanpila**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene**  
**Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana**  
**Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara**  
**Hon. M. S. Thowfeek**  
**Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban**  
**Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon**

**Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva**  
**Hon. Anura Dissanayaka**  
**Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**  
**Hon. S. B. Dissanayake**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake**  
**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. Nimal Piyathissa**  
**Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris**  
**Hon. Niroshan Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam**  
**Hon. Johnston Fernando**  
**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**  
**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. Rishad Bathiudeen**  
**Hon. Sudath Manjula**  
**Hon. S. M. Marikkar**  
**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. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**  
**Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Mujibur Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan**  
**Hon. M. Rameshwaran**  
**Hon. Nimal Lanza**  
**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. 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. Jagath Samarawickrama**  
**Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera**  
**Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan**  
**Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena**  
**Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran**  
**Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi**  
**Hon. John Seneviratne**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem**  
**Hon. H. M. M. Harees**  
**Hon. Abdul Haleem**  
**Hon. Kabir Hashim**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath**  
**Hon. Vijitha 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.**

**1. Announcements by the Speaker :** The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Hon. Speaker has endorsed the certificate on the Bill entitled ‘Appropriation (Amendment)’ on 09<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and endorsed the certificates on the Bills entitled ‘Industrial Disputes (Amendment)’, ‘Termination of Employment of Workmen (Special Provisions) (Amendment)’ and ‘Industrial Disputes (Amendment)’ on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022”.

## II

“I wish to inform Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has nominated the following Members of Parliament to serve in the Panel of Chairs for the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament from 20.09.2022, in terms of the Standing Order 140 of the Parliament:—

Hon. Velu Kumar  
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake  
Hon. Imran Maharoof  
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna  
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna  
Hon. Hesha Withanage  
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene  
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte  
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara  
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam  
Hon. Madhura Withanage  
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe  
Hon. Samanpriya Herath  
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

**2. Presentation of Papers :** (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to HCL Technologies Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2291/25 of 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2022; and
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2290/19 of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

and moved that those Orders be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Disaster Management Centre for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers for the year 2021.

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

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the University of Vocational Technology for the years 2016 and 2017 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Condominium Management Authority for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka for the year 2020

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd for the year 2020/21

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Power and Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Power and Energy presented the Annual Performance Report of the State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development for the year 2020.

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

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

### **3. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

- (1) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna presented a petition dated 22.03.2022 from Mr. Priyantha Rajapaksha of No. 252/A-2, Edanduwawa, Peradeniya.
- (2) Hon. S. B. Dissanayake presented a petition dated 28.06.2022 from Mr. Don Ananda Munasinghe of No. 15/12-B, Sudharma Mawatha, Bowala, Kandy.
- (3) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma presented a petition dated 25.07.2022 from Mr. P. G. S. K. I. Kumarasinghe of No. 40, Galabodawatte, Naranwala, Gampaha.

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

**4. Sittings of the Parliament :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motions agreed to by Parliament on 09<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

**5. Resolution for the constitution of the National Council :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—

- (a) That this Parliament resolves that there shall be a Parliament Committee designated “National Council” consisting of the Hon. Speaker as the Chair, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, the Chief Government Whip and not more than thirty five (35) Members of Parliament representing the Ninth Parliament from recognized Political Parties in Sri Lanka as determined by the Leaders of the Political Parties.
- (b) The National Council shall have the jurisdiction and general responsibilities in order to:—
  - (i) determine the general priorities of Parliament to guide the formulation of short, medium and long-term national policies;

- (ii) agree on short and medium-term common minimum programmes in respect of the stabilization of the economy; and
  - (iii) arrange special meetings with the Ministers of the Cabinet of Ministers, the National Council, the Chairpersons of the Special Committees and Youth observers of Youth Organizations.
- (c) The National Council shall have powers to request reports from—
- (a) Sectoral Oversight Committees;
  - (b) The Committee on Public Finance;
  - (c) The Committee on Public Accounts;
  - (d) The Committee on Public Enterprises;
  - (e) The Committee on Banking and Financial Services;
  - (f) The Committee on Ways and Means;
  - (g) The Committee on Economic Stabilization; and
  - (h) Any Committee controlling Public Finance.
- (d) The Cabinet of Ministers shall in the discharge of its duties under Article 43 of the Constitution submit reports to the Council.
- (e) The quorum of this National Council shall be ten (10) Members.
- (f) Any Member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without having obtained the prior leave of the Committee, shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Irrigation moved,—That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.07 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

**6. Adjournment :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,—That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.51 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.