



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 27.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, November 08, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

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

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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and
Aviation

Hon. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries

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

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

Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, Minister of Education and Leader
of the House of Parliament

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

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

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

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

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. D. V. Chanaka, State Minister of Power and Energy
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine
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, Attorney at Law, 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. Arundika Fernando, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
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. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
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. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law

Hon. Sampath Athukorala

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura

Hon. M. Udayakumar

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna

Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Lalith Ellawala

Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila

Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena

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. Jeevan Thondaman

Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law

Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. Asanka Navarathna

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Kins Nelson

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris

Hon. Dilan Perera

Hon. Niroshan Perera

Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam

Hon. Johnston Fernando

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi

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 Maharroof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
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, Attorney at Law

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa

Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. John Seneviratne

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. H. M. M. Harees

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna 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. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/1/12/7

October 19, 2022

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

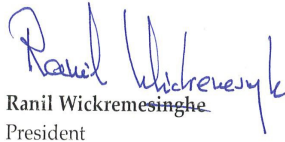
Hon. Speaker,

The Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), I have issued an order to the effect that all members of the Armed Forces specified in the First Schedule are summoned for the maintenance of Public Order in the areas specified in Second Schedule thereof taking into consideration the need for the Public Order to be maintained.

Accordingly, I hereby inform the Parliament of the said Order in terms of Section 2(3) of the aforesaid Ordinance read with Section 21(2) thereof.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The 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, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Powers of Attorney (Amendment)’, ‘Wills (Amendment)’ and ‘Prevention of Frauds (Amendment)’ on 25th October 2022 and endorsed the certificate on the Bills entitled ‘Notaries (Amendment)’, ‘Registration of Documents (Amendment)’ and ‘Twenty First Amendment to the Constitution’ on 31st October 2022.”

II

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received the copies of two petitions filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Value Added Tax (Amendment)’ and the copies of eight petitions in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Inland Revenue (Amendment)’.”

III

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda, Member of Parliament, has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Ethics and Privileges by the Committee of Selection on 21st October 2022, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 127(3) of the Parliament to fill the vacancy occurred due to the resignation of the Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Member of Parliament, from the Membership of the said Committee.”

3. 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 2A of Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 as amended by Act, No. 6 of 2005, relating to the Value Added Tax and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2295/08 of 31st August 2022;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2295/09 of 31st August 2022;
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 4 read with Section 3 of the Casino Business (Regulation) Act, No. 17 of 2010 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2295/10 of 31st August 2022;
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2300/12 of 05th October 2022; and

- (v) Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 12 of the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2013 read with the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2012 relating to Hub Regulations and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2292/36 of 10th August 2022.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 19A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235), as amended by the Customs (Amendment) Law No. 35 of 1974 and the Customs (Amendment) Act, No. 83 of 1988 relating to the Customs Import duty payable on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2298/15 of 20th September 2022.

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

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Mass Media for the year 2021.

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

(4) The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation presented the Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2021.

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

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority for the year 2016 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Government Analyst's Department for the year 2021.

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

(8) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the Annual Report of the BCC Lanka Limited for the year 2019/2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka for the year 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Performance Report of the Department of Immigration & Emigration for the year 2021.

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

4. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

- (i) Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017;
- (ii) Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969;
- (iii) Order under Section 2A of the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002;
- (iv) Notifications under the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52);
- (v) Order under the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003; and
- (vi) Appropriation Bill – For the financial year 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

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

5. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera presented a petition dated 04.10.2022 from Mr. M. A. S. Wijendra Middeniya of No. 113/2, Tissa Road, Netolpitiya, Tangalle.
- (2) Hon. Vijitha Berugoda presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 22.09.2022 from Mrs. J. M. Damayanthi Hemalatha Jayawardane of No. 9A, Nilwalagoda, Medagama, Bibila; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 14.10.2022 from Mr. R. B. Ranjith Somapala of Ambawatta, Hewelwela, Bibila.

- (3) Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 15.09.2022 from Mr. K. G. Sampath of Godawela, Doluwa, Gampola.
- (4) Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara presented a petition dated 01.10.2022 from Mr. G. K. M. Gunapala of No. 2/A/1, Lahiru Place, Ketandola, Ratnapura.
- (5) Hon. Mujibur Rahuman presented a petition dated 07.10.2022 from Mr. M. P. S. Priyankara of No. 56/3, Keenadeniya, Ambepussa.

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

6. Motions for Leave of Absence : The Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran moved,— That the Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan, Member of Parliament for Trincomalee 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 November 08, 2022.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 18th October 2022, the hours of sittings of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.. At 10.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Sectoral Oversight Committees : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That Seventeen (17) Sectoral Oversight Committees be appointed to be designated as follows:—

- (1) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence
- (2) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and National Unity
- (3) Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security
- (4) Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans
- (5) Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations
- (6) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Increasing Export of Goods & Services
- (7) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis
- (8) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport
- (9) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture
- (10) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development
- (11) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education

- (12) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Foreign Employment & Labour
- (13) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law – Abiding Society
- (14) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health
- (15) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender
- (16) Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen
- (17) Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government

Each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall consist of Eight (8) Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to discuss and report upon such matters as are referred to the Committee in terms of Standing Order 111 of the Parliament;

The quorum of each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall be three (3) Members.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Privileges : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka moved,—That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, M.P. on 06th October, 2022 in Parliament to the effect that privileges of himself and Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 118 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. Milan Jayathilake moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to amend the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262).”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order 52(6) of the Parliament to the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for report.

11. Adjournment (Speedy Relief for Masses Affected by Economic Crisis) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.29 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Rural Economy moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.49 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

(At 3.11 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being 5.00 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 09, 2022.