



(Ninth Parliament - Third Session)

No. 58.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, January 20, 2023 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. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

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

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

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

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local
Government

Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology

Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. John Seneviratne

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

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

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

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

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received a copy of another petition filed at the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill entitled ‘Licensing of Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers and Container Operators (Amendment)’ in addition to the receipt of Petitions mentioned in the announcement made by me on 17th January 2023.”

II

“I have appointed the following Members to serve on the ‘Select Committee of Parliament to make suitable recommendations for the expansion of higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka’ with the Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC as the Chair:—

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have appointed the following Members of Parliament under the Chair of the Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law to serve on the ‘Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into incidents of infringement of privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament and to make suitable recommendations in that regard’:—

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Nimal Lanza

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Education presented the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 32 read with Section 25 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) relating to Soft Liquor Licenses and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2290/24 of 28th July 2022 (Excise Notification No. 05/2022) and moved that the Notification be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority for the year 2020

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/66 of 30th September 2022;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Primary Care and Family Medicine of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/67 of 30th September 2022;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2301/31 of 11th October 2022; and

- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Education under Section 27(1) read with Section 21 and Section 139 of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission with regard to the establishment of a Department of Computing of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2303/24 of 27th October 2022.

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

(4) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Report of the Paddy Marketing Board for the year 2018 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on the Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 which were referred to the Committee.

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

(2) Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, Chair of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Report of the Second Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises for the Third Session of the Ninth Parliament.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya presented a petition dated 23.10.2022 from Mr. R.M. Keerthi Gunarathna of Wendesiwatta, Ballapana, Galigamuwa Town.

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

5. Votes of Condolence : The Minister of Education moved the Votes of Condolence on the late Hon. Upali Dassanayake, late Hon. (Dr.) Neville Fernando, late Hon. Gunaratne Weerakoon and late Hon. Raja Collure, ex-Members of Parliament.

The State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.01 a.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Agriculture moved,— That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.24 a.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Presiding Member announced that the Speaker and himself associated together with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the deaths of the late Hon. Upali Dassanayake, late Hon. (Dr.) Neville Fernando, late Hon. Gunaratne Weerakoon and late Hon. Raja Collure, ex-Members of Parliament and directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Report (Hansard) containing proceedings of this day to the members of their bereaved families.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 12.33 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 07, 2023.