



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 19.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9.30 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. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

Hon. Naseer Ahamed, Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Jeevan Thondaman, Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure
Development

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health

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 Wijesekera, 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. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Investment Promotion

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. 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. Anuradha Jayaratne, State Minister of Justice and Prison Affairs
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. Sanath Nishantha, State Minister of Water Supply
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
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 Private Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Plantation Industries
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. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
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. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Palani Thigambaram
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
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. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
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

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 43 of the Employees' Trust Fund Act, No. 46 of 1980, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2311/39 of 22nd December 2022 and moved that those Regulations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) Seventeenth Annual Report of the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the University of Colombo for the year 2021.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2021.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund for the year 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for the year 2020.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Reports of the Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Thurusaviya Fund for the year 2021.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Economic and Physical Plans

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Engineering Council of Sri Lanka for the year 2019 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Food Security & Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage and New Citizen.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. S. M. Chandrasena presented a petition dated 12.02.2023 from Mr. W. Hemarathna of Katukeliyawa Junction, Kandy Road, Mihinthale.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 14.02.2023 from Mr. M. W. Upul Kumara of Baduwatta, Meddawatta, Matara.

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

3. Anti-Corruption : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—Bill to give effect to certain provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other Internationally recognized norms, standards, and best practices; to provide for the establishment of an Independent Commission to detect and investigate allegations of bribery, corruption and offences related to the declaration of assets and liabilities and associated offences, and to direct the institution of and institute prosecutions for offences of Bribery, Corruption and offences related to the declaration of assets and liabilities and other associated offences; to promote and advance the prevention of corrupt practices; to educate and raise awareness amongst the public to combat corruption; to repeal the Bribery Act (Chapter 26), the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994 and the declaration of assets and liabilities Law, No. 1 of 1975 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, May 11, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

4. Privileges : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, M.P. on 17th January, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges 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.

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Doctor Reverend Harispattuwe Ariyawangshalankara Thero Foundation.”

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 Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

6. Resolution for the implementation of the arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Sri Lanka,— Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (26th April, 2023),— Motion made and question proposed “as per the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 17th April 2023 for the Cabinet Paper No.23/0727/604/058-1 resolves, that the arrangement entered into with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) for the 48 month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka with an amount of SDR 2.286 billion (about USD 3.0 billion) to secure a speedy transition to economic recovery, followed by sustainable economic growth, which would benefit the people of Sri Lanka and future generations, and which was tabled in Parliament on 22nd March 2023, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies be granted all requisite approval to implement this arrangement.”

The Minister of Health moved,—That Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.57 a.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

The Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.02 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Environment moved,—That Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.06 p.m. Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna took the Chair.)

(At 2.43 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.41 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

And it being past 5.00 p.m. debate stood adjourned; debate to be resumed on Friday, April 28, 2023.

7. Adjournment (Psychosocial Protection System for Children of Widowed Parents) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated

And it being past 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.43 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament this day.

Parliament adjourned Accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on April 04, 2023.