



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 5.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security

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

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

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

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

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

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. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways
Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, 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. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries
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. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
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. 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. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
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

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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
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. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Piyanara Jayaratne
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
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, Attorney at Law
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. Uddika Premarathne
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
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, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

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



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/5/1

February 20, 2023

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

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

I

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Accounts, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 119 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera

Hon. K. Kader Masthan

Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan

Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake

Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah

Hon. Kabir Hashim

Hon. Mano Ganesan

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake

Hon. Niroshan Perera

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Hesha Withanage

Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda

Hon. Isuru Dodangoda

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya”

II

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 120 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath”

III

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the House Committee, with the Speaker as the Chair, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 117 and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Marjan Faleel”

IV

“I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Committee on Public Petitions, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 125 of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena”

V

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated with the Deputy Speaker as the Chair and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 113 and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry, PC
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC ”

VI

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve in the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 118(1) of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Samanpriya Herath

VII

“I wish to inform that the following Members have also been nominated with the Chief Government Whip as the Chair and the Chief Opposition Whip, by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Backbencher Committee, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 126 (1), (2) of Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 10th February 2023:—

Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake”

3. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Institute of Social Development for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Investment Promotion.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Reports of the National Science and Technology Commission for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing 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 Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/13 of 13th December 2022; and
- (ii) 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 Transport Management and Logistics Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2311/12 of 19th December 2022

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

(5) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority for the year 2017 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2018; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel for the year 2019

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

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka - Talawakelle for the year 2019; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Galoya Plantations (Pvt) Ltd for the year 2018/2019

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 Report on the Submission of observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Power and Energy in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament and moved that the Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment for the year 2020 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce and Food Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law presented a petition dated 30.12.2022 from Mrs. P.G. Malani of No. 32, Diyawara Gammanaya, Walpita South, Mulana, Poddala.
- (2) Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna presented a petition dated 01.01.2023 from Mr. E. D. Nandasiri of No. 49, Parana Polis Watta, Bombuwala Road, Nagoda, Kalutara.
- (3) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 18.12.2022 from Mr. D. M. D. E. Jayantha Sandhya Kumara of No. 41/21, Keppetipola Mawatha, Welewatta, Monaragala.

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

5. Business of the Parliament : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 3 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act (No.1) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71 read with Sections 27(1) and (5), 28(2) and (3), 64(2) and 70 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 relating to qualify as an Authorized Person permitted to carry on business in and from the Area of Authority of the Colombo Port City and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/46 of 28th September 2022, which were presented on 13.12.2022, be approved.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.27 a.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.31 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.07 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.50 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulations under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act (No.2) : The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in consultation with the Colombo Port City Economic Commission under Section 71(1) read with Sections 27(1), 41(3)(f) and 41(9) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2299/47 of 28th September 2022, which were presented on 13.12.2022, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Question put, and agreed to; Parliament was at 5.11 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023.