



*(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)*

No. 14.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

### PRESENT :

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

**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. 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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law**, Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation

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

**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. 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. 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. Anupa Pasqual**, State Minister of Social Empowerment  
**Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion  
**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. 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. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya**, State Minister of Finance  
**Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath**, State Minister of Power and Energy  
**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, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Sampath Athukorala**  
**Hon. Tissa Attanayake**  
**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**  
**Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana**  
**Hon. Wajira Abeywardana**  
**Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya**  
**Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**  
**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. Lalith Ellawala**  
**Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka**  
**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. Udayakantha Gunathilaka**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene**  
**Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana**  
**Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva**  
**Hon. Anura Dissanayaka**  
**Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**  
**Hon. S. B. Dissanayake**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake**  
**Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya**  
**Hon. Isuru Dodangoda**  
**Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena**  
**Hon. H. Nandasena**  
**Hon. Asanka Navarathna**

**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. Johnston Fernando**  
**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi**  
**Hon. Rohana Bandara**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara**  
**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, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka**  
**Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka**  
**Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe**  
**Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. M. Rameshwaran**  
**Hon. Waruna Liyanage**  
**Hon. Gamini Lokuge**

**Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**  
**Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna**  
**Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana**  
**Hon. Hesha Withanage**  
**Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Wimal Weerawansa**  
**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. Maithreepala Sirisena**  
**Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran**  
**Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi**  
**Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Kabir Hashim**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath**  
**Hon. Vijitha Herath**  
**Hon. Samanpriya Herath**  
**Hon. Marjan Faleel**  
**Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie**  
**Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka**

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, 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

March 21, 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 announcement:—

“I wish to inform that in terms of Standing Order 113(2), the Hon. Speaker has nominated the following Members of Parliament as the Co-opted Members to serve in the Legislative Standing Committee for consideration of the Bill entitled ‘Indira Cancer Trust (Incorporation)’:—

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna”

**3. Presentation of Papers :** (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Tea Small Holdings Development Authority for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation Industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

**4. Presentation of Reports from Committees :** Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, a member of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on—

(i) Regulations under the Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006; and

(ii) Regulations under the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002

which were referred to the Committee.

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

**5. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

(1) Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya presented —

(i) a petition dated 07.01.2023 from Mr. G. G. M. Ariyawansa of No. 303/1, Dankanda, Matale;

- (ii) a petition dated 24.12.2022 from Mrs. R.A. Indrani Renapana of “Samanpaya”, Renapana, Galigamuwa Town; and
  - (iii) a petition dated 14.12.2022 from Ms. S. Dinoshani Disanayaka of Hewadiwela, Mahagama, Wagolla.
- (2) Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka presented a petition dated 21.01.2023 from Mr. J. M. Dissanayake of Near Cooperative, Aiwela, Bibila.

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

**6. Partition (Amendment) :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,—“Bill to amend the Partition Law, No. 21 of 1977.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, April 06, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Justice and Law – Abiding Society.

**7. Leave to introduce Bill :** Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene seconded by Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“Bill to incorporate the Sri Lanka Institute of Training and Development.”

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 Education for report.

**8. Regulations under the Electronic Transactions Act :** 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 President under Section 24 read with Section 8(2) of the Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006 and Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2308/08 of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, which were presented on 07.03.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**9. Regulations under the Welfare Benefits Act :** 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 President under Section 27 read with Sections 7(3), 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002 and Article 44(3) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/30 of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, which were presented on 07.03.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**10. Annual Report of the National Crafts Council (2020) :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 28.11.2022 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**11. Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited (2017/2018) :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2017/2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2018 and presented on 18.01.2023 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**12. Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited (2018/2019) :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Annual Report of the Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited for the year 2018/2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2019 and presented on 18.01.2023 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**13. Chartered Institute of Transport of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) (Amendment) Bill :** Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Deputy Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

**14. Shaili Edutainment Foundation (Incorporation) Bill :** Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and referred by the Deputy Speaker to the Legislative Standing Committee under Standing Order 53(3) of the Parliament.

**15. Adjournment (Special Statement in Parliament by Hon. President on IMF Agreement) :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Order read for resuming; Adjourned debate on question (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023).

Question again proposed and debate resumed.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.16 a.m. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya took the Chair.)

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa seconded by Hon. Duminda Dissanayake moved,— That Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.11 p.m. Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,—That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.33 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.49 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.24 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, March 24, 2023.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023.