



*(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)*

No. 10.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, March 09, 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. 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. Nimal Siripala de Silva**, Attorney at Law, Minister of Ports, Shipping and  
Aviation

**Hon. Douglas Devananda**, Minister of Fisheries

**Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara**, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

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

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

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

**Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola**, State Minister of Health

**Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**, State Minister of Transport

**Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**, State Minister of Education

**Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**, State Minister of Tourism

**Hon. Sivaneshathurai Santhirakanthan**, State Minister of Rural Road Development

**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. 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. Ashoka Priyantha**, State Minister of Home Affairs

**Hon. Shantha Bandara**, State Minister of Mass Media

**Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Private 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. Thenuka Vidanagamage**, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing

**Hon. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Trade

**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. Kapila Athukorala**

**Hon. Sampath Athukorala**  
**Hon. Tissa Attanayake**  
**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**  
**Hon. Rohitha Abegunawardhana**  
**Hon. Wajira Abeywardana**  
**Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**  
**Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**  
**Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan**  
**Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**  
**Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma**  
**Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage**  
**Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**  
**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. 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. S. M. Chandrasena**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**

**Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban**  
**Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva**  
**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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda**  
**Hon. Asanka Navarathna**  
**Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara**  
**Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan**  
**Hon. S. Noharathalingam**  
**Hon. Buddhika Pathirana**  
**Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris**  
**Hon. Dilan Perera**  
**Hon. Dhammika Perera**  
**Hon. Niroshan Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**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. S. M. Marikkar**  
**Hon. Imran Maharoof**  
**Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar**  
**Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff**  
**Hon. Mohomad Muzammil**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka**

**Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara**  
**Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan**  
**Hon. M. Rameshwaran**  
**Hon. Nimal Lanza**  
**Hon. Waruna Liyanage**  
**Hon. Gamini Lokuge**  
**Hon. Gamini Waleboda**  
**Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe**  
**Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran**  
**Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri**  
**Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana**  
**Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Hesha Withanage**  
**Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. D. Weerasingha**  
**Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera**  
**Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan**  
**Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama**  
**Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera**  
**Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan**  
**Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena**  
**Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran**  
**Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi**  
**Hon. Vadivel Suresh**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Abdul Haleem**  
**Hon. Kabir Hashim**

**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath**

**Hon. Jayarathna Herath**

**Hon. Samanpriya Herath**

**Hon. Marjan Faleel**

**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 Speaker took the Chair.**

**1. Presentation of Papers :** (1) The Minister of Education presented the—

- (i) 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 Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament; and
- (ii) 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 District Secretariat – Gampaha in the report of the Committee on Public Accounts which was presented to Parliament

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Education presented the Note on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget for the period from 01.01.2023 to 31.01.2023 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 43 of 2022.

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

(3) The Minister of Education presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Educational Publications Department for the years 2020 and 2021.

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

**2. Presentation of Public Petitions :**

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle presented a petition dated 18.01.2023 from Mr. P. W. R. Fernando of No. 249/A, Nainamadama East, Nainamadama.

(2) Hon. Buddhika Pathirana presented —

- (i) a petition dated 03.11.2022 from Mr. Ananda Kariyawasam of Pengiri Kanaththa Watta, Kurupanawa, Nagoda, Galle;
- (ii) a petition dated 01.12.2022 from Mr. P. W. Abeygunasekara of Rajagedara, Ganegoda, Karagoda, Uyangoda; and
- (iii) a petition dated 19.12.2022 from Mr. Samith Pathum Liyanage of No. 482, Nakuttiyagama, Kekanadura.

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

**3. 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023, the hours of sitting of Parliament on Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 10.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

**4. Business of the Parliament :** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 1 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.

**5. Privileges :** Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law seconded by Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, M.P. on 08<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in Parliament to the effect that her 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.

**6. Resolution for the implementation of the recommendations of 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 :** The Minister of Education moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the recommendations of the report submitted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 by 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, which was constituted by the motion passed by Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, to investigate whether the privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament were infringed by the comments made in the programmes telecast by the Siyatha television channel on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and

27<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, in relation to the agreement reached by the President, the Prime Minister and the Members of Parliament on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 on the floor of the House, to meet representatives of all parties and discuss the measures to solve the ethnic problems and to live as children of one mother, be referred to the Attorney- General in terms of the Section 26(1) (b) of the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act, No. 21 of 1953.

The Minister of Education moved,— That the debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on a future date.

**7. Adjournment (Postponement of Local Government Election and Economic Hardships Faced by the People) :** The Minister of Agriculture moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That Hon. Imran Maharroof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 11.03 a.m. Hon. Imran Maharroof took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Livestock Development moved,— That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.39 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

The Minister of Environment moved,— That Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.53 p.m. Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m. debate stood adjourned; Debate to be resumed on Friday, March 10, 2023.

And it being 5.30 p.m. Parliament was 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, March 10, 2023.