



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 30.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, June 07, 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. 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. (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. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural
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. 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. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

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. 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. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

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. 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. 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. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
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. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
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. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
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. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
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. 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. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law
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. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
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. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. C.V. Wigneswaran
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
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. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

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 —

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Planning for the year 2022;
- (ii) Performance Report of the Department of State Accounts for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Treasury Operations for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports 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 Performance Report of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Official Languages for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Multipurpose Development Task Force for the year 2022;
- (iii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Matara for the year 2022;
- (iv) Annual Performance and Financial Report of the District Secretariat-Colombo for the year 2022;
- (v) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Monaragala for the year 2022;
- (vi) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Kilinochchi for the year 2022;
- (vii) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Kurunegala for the year 2022;
- (viii) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Kegalle for the year 2022;
- (ix) Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Ratnapura for the year 2022;
- (x) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Kandy for the year 2022;
- (xi) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Badulla for the year 2022;
- (xii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Galle for the year 2022;
- (xiii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Kalutara for the year 2022;
- (xiv) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Polonnaruwa for the year 2022;
- (xv) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Vavuniya for the year 2022;
- (xvi) Annual Performance and Accounts Report of the District Secretariat-Matale for the year 2022;
- (xvii) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Puttalam for the year 2022;
- (xviii) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Mullaitivu for the year 2022;
- (xix) Annual Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Mannar for the year 2022;
- (xx) Performance Report of the District Secretariat-Jaffna for the year 2022; and
- (xxi) Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat-Nuwara Eliya for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Education presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2021.

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Fisheries presented the Performance Report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Sustainable Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Transport and Highways and Minister of Mass Media presented the Performance Reports of the Sri Lanka Railway Department for the years 2020 and 2021 and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy & Transport.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 2022 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2022;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museums for the year 2022; and
- (iii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Christian Religious Affairs for the year 2022.

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Religious Affairs and Co-Existence.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation from Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2014;
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;

- (iii) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2020;
- (iv) Annual Report and Accounts of the Post Graduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine of the Colombo University for the year 2020;
- (v) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2020;
- (vi) Annual Report of the Ceylon German Technical Training Institute for the year 2018;
- (vii) Annual Reports of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018;
- (viii) Annual Report of the National Library & Documentation Services Board for the year 2018;
- (ix) Annual Reports of the University of Vocational Technology for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- (x) Annual Report of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the year 2018;
- (xi) Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2019;
- (xii) Annual Reports of the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority for the years 2015, 2018 and 2019;
- (xiii) Annual Reports of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- (xiv) Annual Report of the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies for the year 2020;
- (xv) Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies of University of Kelaniya for the year 2020;
- (xvi) Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science of University of Peradeniya for the year 2020;
- (xvii) Annual Report of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xviii) Annual Report of the Open University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xix) Annual Report of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xx) Annual Report of the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) for the year 2020;
- (xxi) Annual Report and Accounts of the Wayamba of University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xxii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xxiii) Annual Report of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2020;
- (xxiv) Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Jaffna for the year 2020;
- (xxv) Annual Reports of the National Education Commission for the years 2019 and 2020;

- (xxvi) Annual Report of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for the year 2020;
- (xxvii) Annual Report of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019;
- (xxviii) Annual Report of the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority for the year 2020;
- (xxix) Annual Report of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019;
- (xxx) Annual Reports of the National Research Council for the years 2019 and 2020;
- (xxxi) Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2020;
- (xxxii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies for the year 2019;
- (xxxiii) Annual Report of the Ceylon German Technical Training Institute for the year 2019;
- (xxxiv) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education for the year 2021;
- (xxxv) Forty Third Annual Report of the University Grants Commission for the year 2021;
- (xxxvi) Annual Reports of the National Science and Technology Commission for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- (xxxvii) Annual Reports of the Skills Development Fund Limited for the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- (xxxviii) Annual Reports of the National Science Foundation for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- (xxxix) Annual Report of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2021;
- (xl) Annual Report of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences of University of Colombo for the year 2021; and
- (xli) Annual Report of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2021.

which were referred to the Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana presented a petition dated 09.01.2023 from Mr. P. G. R. G. Ratnayake of No 381/1, Waiddya Mawatha, Pitipana North, Homagama.
- (2) Hon. Duminda Dissanayake presented a petition dated 12.01.2023 from Mrs. G. P. T. P. Weerasekara of No. 306/B, Wawanawatta Road, Mampe, Piliyandala.

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

4. Sitzings 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 21st February 2023, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 9.30 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.

5. Adjournment (Revival of Small and Medium Enterprises) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Health moved,—That Hon. Imran Maharroof do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 10.45 a.m. Hon. Imran Maharroof took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 12.22 p.m. Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene took the Chair.)

(At 1.21 p.m. Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.38 p.m. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.47 a.m. Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi took the Chair.)

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,—That Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.41 p.m. Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal took the Chair.)

And it being passed 5.30 p.m. Parliament was at 6.12 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 Thursday, June 08, 2023.